クライング フリーマン

CRYING FREEMAN

Kazuo Koike / Ryoichi Ikegami

5

小池一夫・作
池上遼一・画

クライング
CRYING FREEMAN
フリーマン

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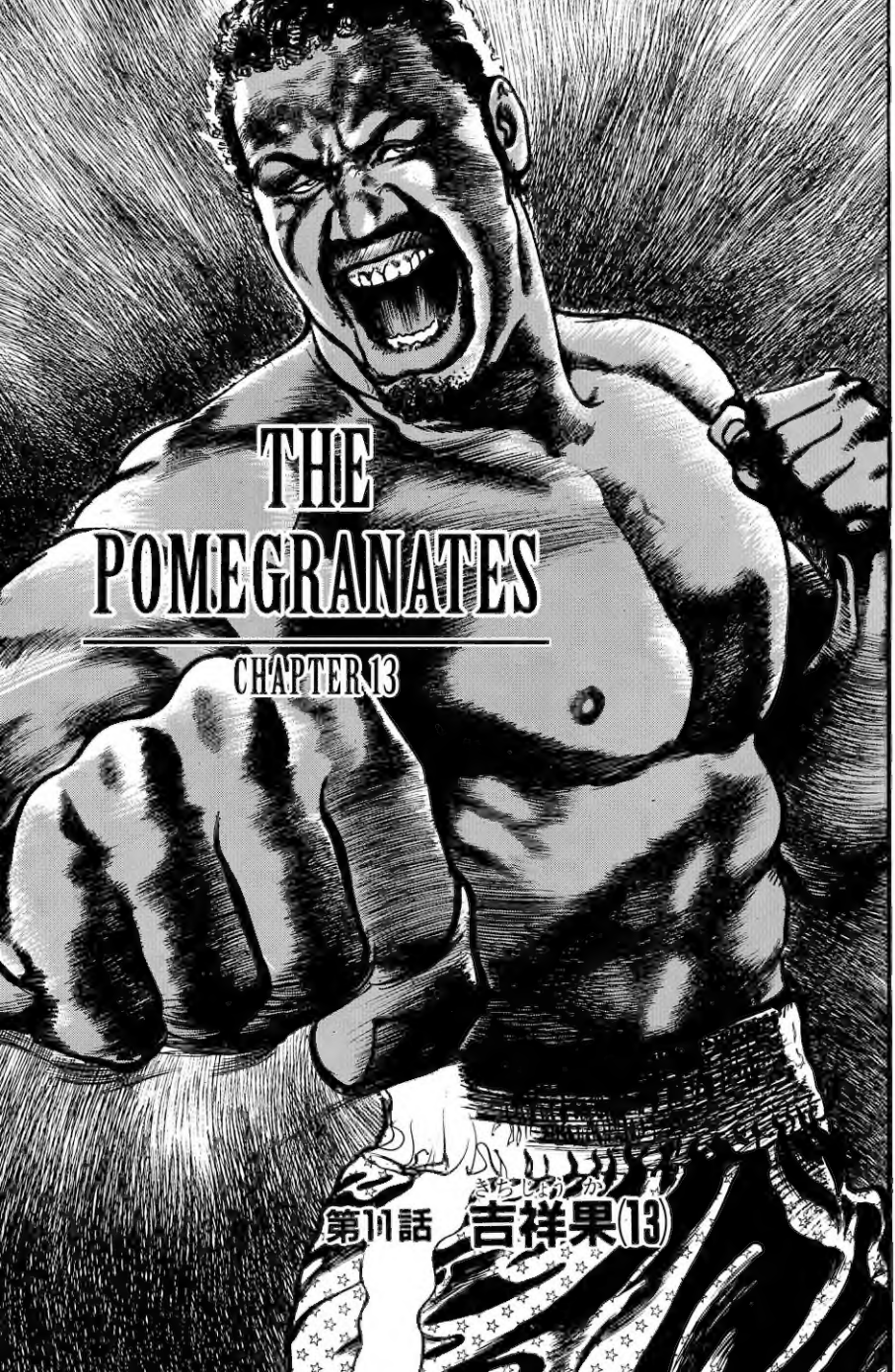
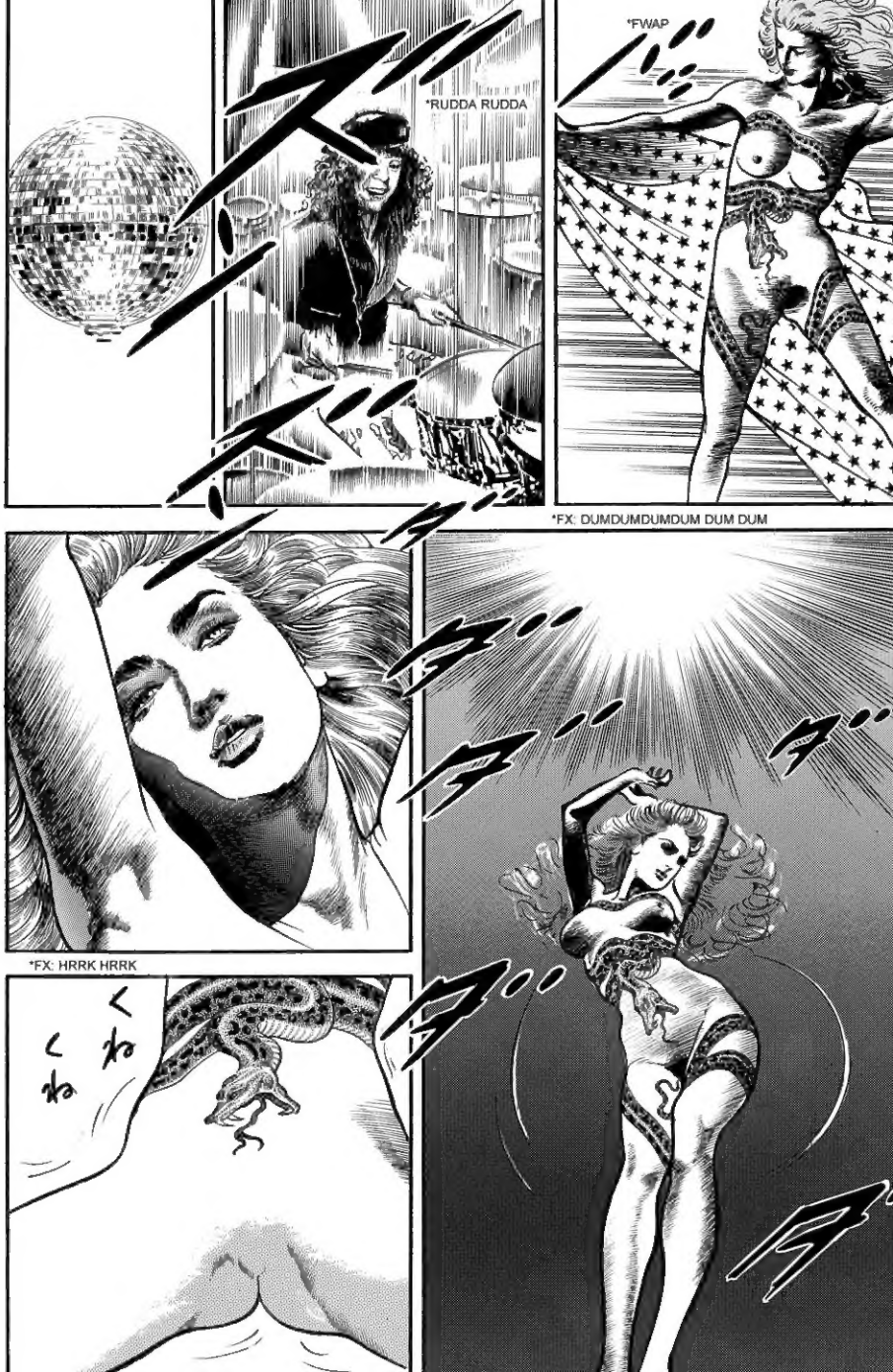

THE
POMEGRANATES
CHAPTER 13
第11話 吉祥果(13)

*FX: RAAAHH WOOT WOOT WOOT
*FX: RAAAAHHH
*FX: RRAAHHH RRAAAHH

*FX: ("sound" of silence)
*FX: RRAAHHH RRAAHHH
*FX: SHFF!
*FX: ROAR!
*CLAP
*CLAP
*CLAP
HERE BEFORE YOU IS THE LEADER OF THE 108 DRAGONS-- THE MOST POWERFUL ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD-- LONG TAI YANG, A.K.A. FREEMAN!

*FX: BOOO! BOOO! BOOO!
THEY SAY HE IS THE GREATEST ASSASSIN EVER, AND THAT NO ONE IN THE WORLD IS A MATCH FOR HIM!
*FX: RAAAHH
MURDER HIM!!
FUCKING KILL 'IM, GORDON!!
BUT IS IT REALLY TRUE?! TO FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL, WE-- THE FIGHTERS OF K.O.-- ARE GOING TO TAKE HIM ON...
...AND THE FIRST BOUT WILL BE WITH BOXER DIRK GORDON!!
NEITHER OF YOU IS ALLOWED TO USE ANY WEAPONS! YOUR UNARMED TECHNIQUES WILL HAVE TO SERVE YOU TO THE END!
SINCE YOU'RE FIGHTING TO THE DEATH, YOU WON'T NEED A REFEREE. NO TIME LIMIT, EITHER!


*RUDDA RUDDA
*FWAP
*FX: DUMDUMDUMDUM DUM DUM
*FX: HRRK HRRK

HEAVEN!!
HEAVEN!!
NINA!!
NINA!!

*FX SLOPSLOP SLOPSLOP
*FX WHUD
*ZZZPP
*FX WHUMP WHUMP
GRRAA AHH!!
GORDON! IF YOU BEAT HIM, YOU CAN FUCK ME!

NOW, FIGHT!!
*SHKK
*FX THUD
*FX WHUMP

*FX RAAHHH
*FX KRAK

*THWAK
COME ON!!
GET UP, FREE-MAN!!
GODDAMN IT!! FIGHT, FREEMAN!!
*FX RAAHH RAAHH
FIGHT !!
FIGHT !!
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
DO YOU WANT TO GET KILLED, FREEMAN ?!

FIGHT !!
FIGHT !!
I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE PRIDE IN BECOMING AN OBJECT FOR YOU TO MASTURBATE TO?
'F.x RAAHH RAAHH
DO YOU WANT TO DIE WITHOUT A FIGHT?!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE?!
YOU WILL.
IF YOU DON'T FIGHT, I'LL KILL HER! YOU THINK I'D MAKE A DEAL LIKE THAT WITH YOU?!
IF I WIN, RELEASE WO-CI AND HER PARENTS! I NEED TO HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT!

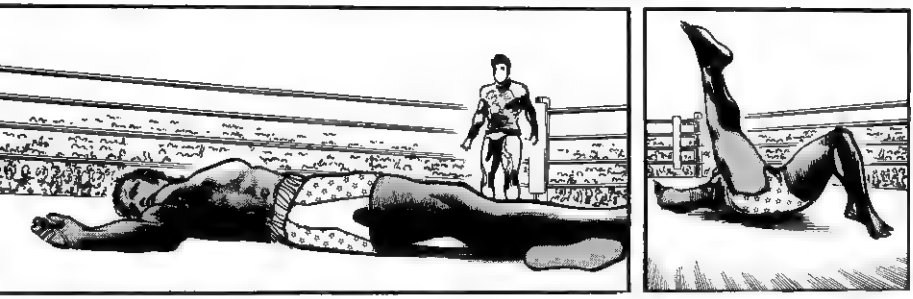
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! IF YOU RELEASE WO-CI AND HER PARENTS, AS LONG AS THERE IS LIFE IN THIS BODY, I'LL FIGHT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!
DIDN'T YOU ALL FIGHT IN VIETNAM?!
BUT I MUST HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT! FIGHTING WITHOUT PURPOSE IS UTTERLY MEANING-LESS!
*FX SHFF
IF I WIN, PROMISE ME YOU'LL RELEASE THE HOSTAGES!
GIVE ME A REASON! GIVE ME A REASON TO FIGHT!
THEN YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS TO FIGHT WITHOUT A PURPOSE. AND WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?!

YESSS!!
*FX HUH?!
*FX SMILE
.....
.....
.....
THEY'VE GIVEN ME THEIR ANSWER. NOW RELEASE WO-CI AND HER PARENTS IF I WIN!
VERY WELL!
SWEAR IT!!
GOOD! NOW, LET'S FIGHT!

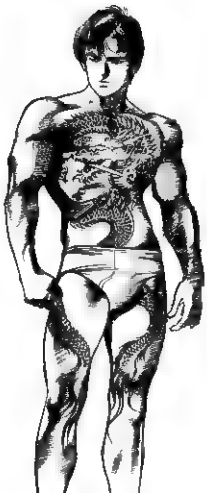
*FX HJH?
*FX AAH
*FX SHKK
*FX PAT PAT
*FX AAH
WISH I KNEW ...
WHERE'S MY HUSBAND?!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE OKAY!
BIG SISTER !!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM FIRST!
THAT WAY! WE'VE ONLY GOT FORTY MINUTES! AFTER THAT, BUGNUG'S GOING TO LAUNCH A HELICOPTER ATTACK!
*FX. BEEP BEEP

*FX FWOOSH
*CHUD

*FX YEEARRGHH



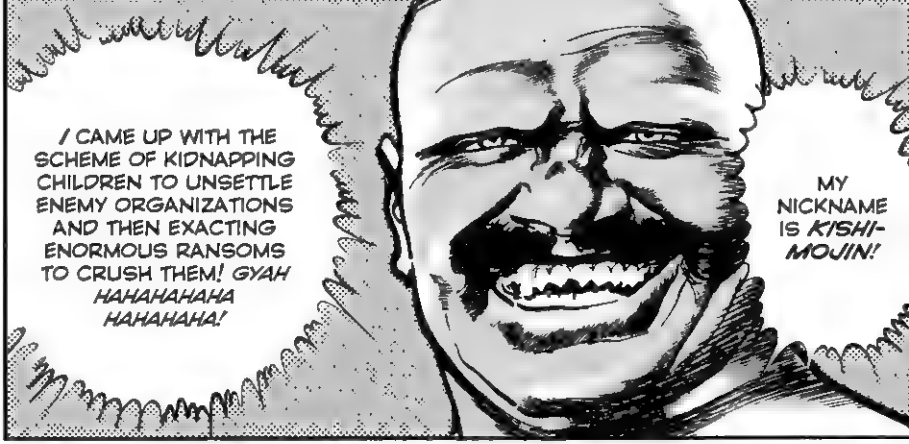
*FX ("sound of silence,

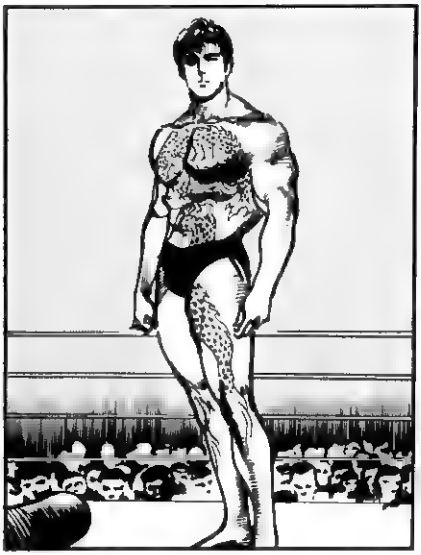


THE
POMEGRANATES
CHAPTER 14
第11話 吉祥果14

*FX THUD
NOW!! RELEASE WO-CI AND HER PARENTS!!
YES, SIR!
*FX SHFF
*FX WHJP
LIEUTENANT O'CONNER, RELEASE THE HOSTAGES.

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SENT THE POME-GRANATES?
I ONCE WON A U.S. NATIONAL MARTIAL ARTS TOURNA-MENT!
YOU'RE TAKING ON ME NEXT!


I CAME UP WITH THE SCHEME OF KIDNAPPING CHILDREN TO UNSETTLE ENEMY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEN EXACTING ENORMOUS RANSOMS TO CRUSH THEM! GYAH HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA!
MY NICKNAME IS KISHI-MOJIN!



*FX SHFF

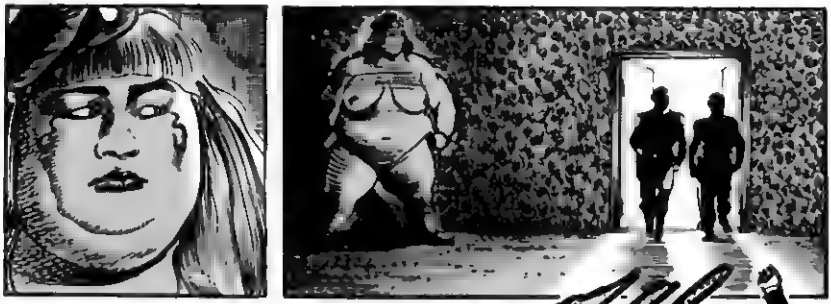
*FX FWIT

*FX WHOOSH

*FX SHPP!
*FWOOSH
*FX THWIP
*FX FWUP
*FX WHJD
*FX CHOK

*FX RAAHHH
*FX HRRK
*FX KRAK
*WHACK
*WHUMP

*FX RAAHHH RAAHH


*FX YSHHK
*FX KA-CHAK

*KRAK
URGHH!
*FX ZZT ZZT
MY LOVE...

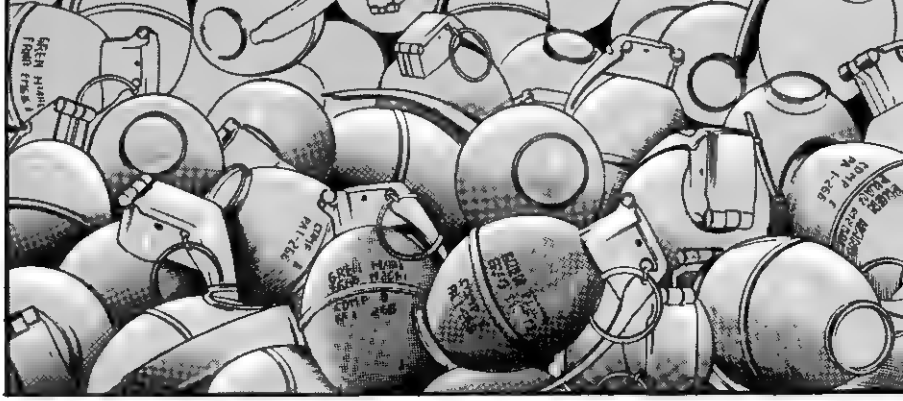
*THOK
*GASH
SEND HIM STRAIGHT TO HELL!!
FUCKING KILL 'IM!!
*FX RAAHH RAAHH
*FX THJD WHAK
OOH!! OOOH !!

*FX WHUD
*FX WHAK
*FX KA-RAK
GO FOR IT!
LET ME POUND HIM SOME!!
*FX FUP!
GYAARGH!!

*FX THWAK
*FX FWUP
*WHUP

*SPONG
*KA-RAKK
*TONG

*FX SHINNG
*FX TONNG TONG TONG
*FX BEEP BEEP
*FX WHOD
*FX SMILE
*FX KUNCH



IT'S STOPPED! HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE!

AWESOME!! LET'S GET TO IT, BIG SIS!!

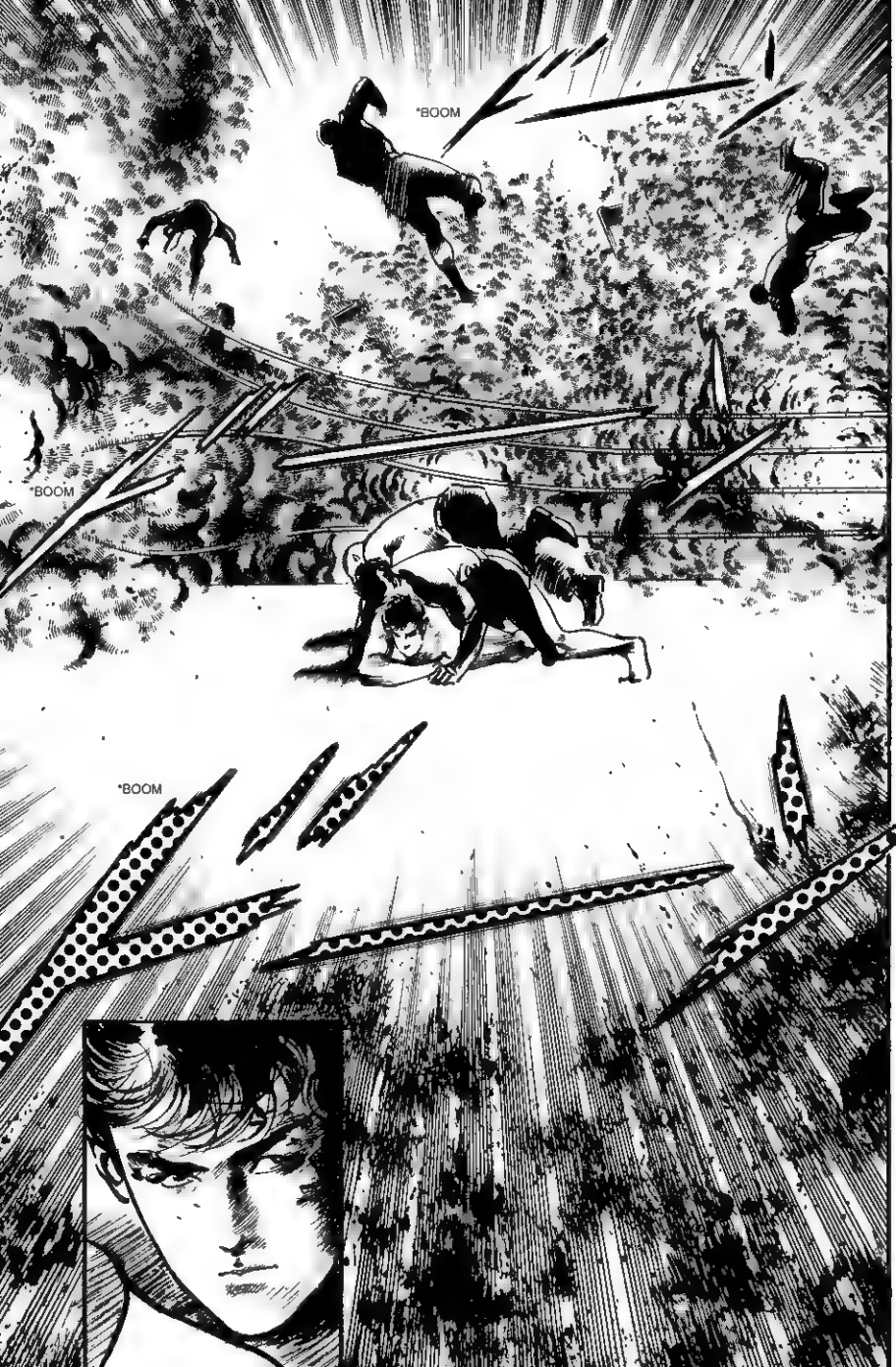
<IT'S TIME TO ATTACK, BAI YA SHAN!>

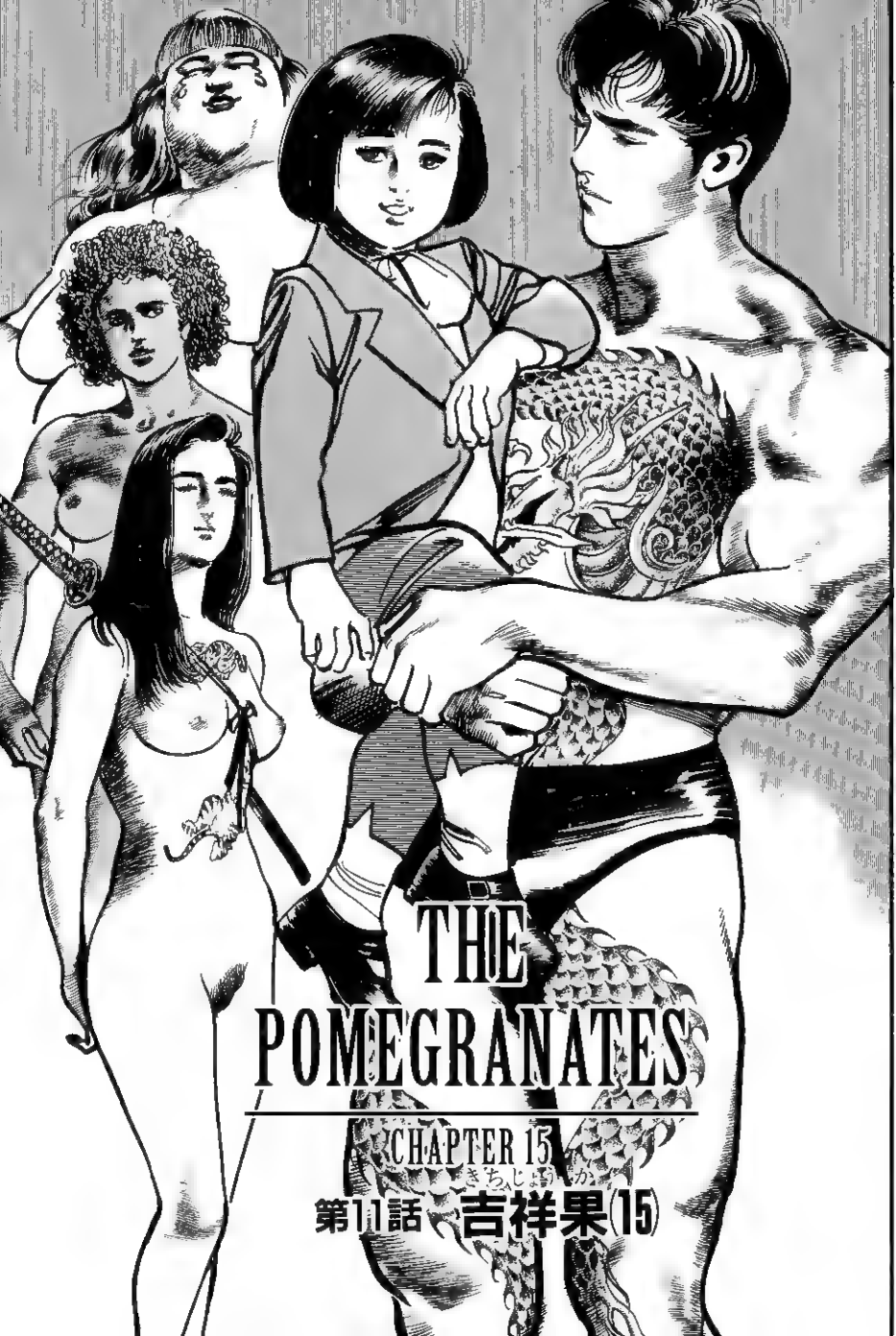
*FX TIK
*FX TIK

*KRR
*KRR
*KRR
*FX RAAHH RAAHH
*FX KRR KRR

*FX KRR KRR

*FX KATHOOM


*BOOM
*BOOM
*BOOM



THE POMEGRANATES

CHAPTER 15

第11話　吉祥果(15)

*FX. KABOOM BOOM BOOM
*FX. THAWHOOM

*FX TOTTER TOTTER
*FX SHKK
*FX CHUD
KILL HIM!! KILL FREEMAN!
*FX STAGGER STAGGER

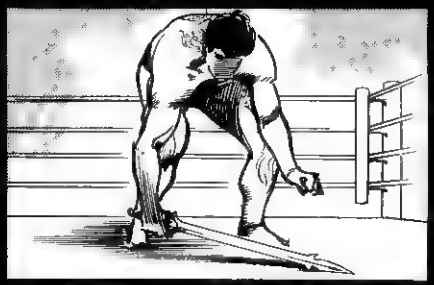
*FX FSSS
*FX AAAAHH
*FX WHOOSH
FX HRRNK
*FX GYAAHH
SHIT !!

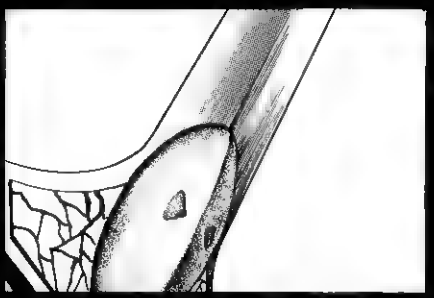
THIS RING IS ALSO WHERE WE EXECUTE TRAITORS!

DARLING!
*FX STAGGER STAGGER
*FX FSSSS
*FX FWOOSH
*FX TAK
*FX WOOSH
*FX HRRNK

*FX SHINNG
*FX KLANNG
I'LL FUCKING KILL YOUU-UU!!

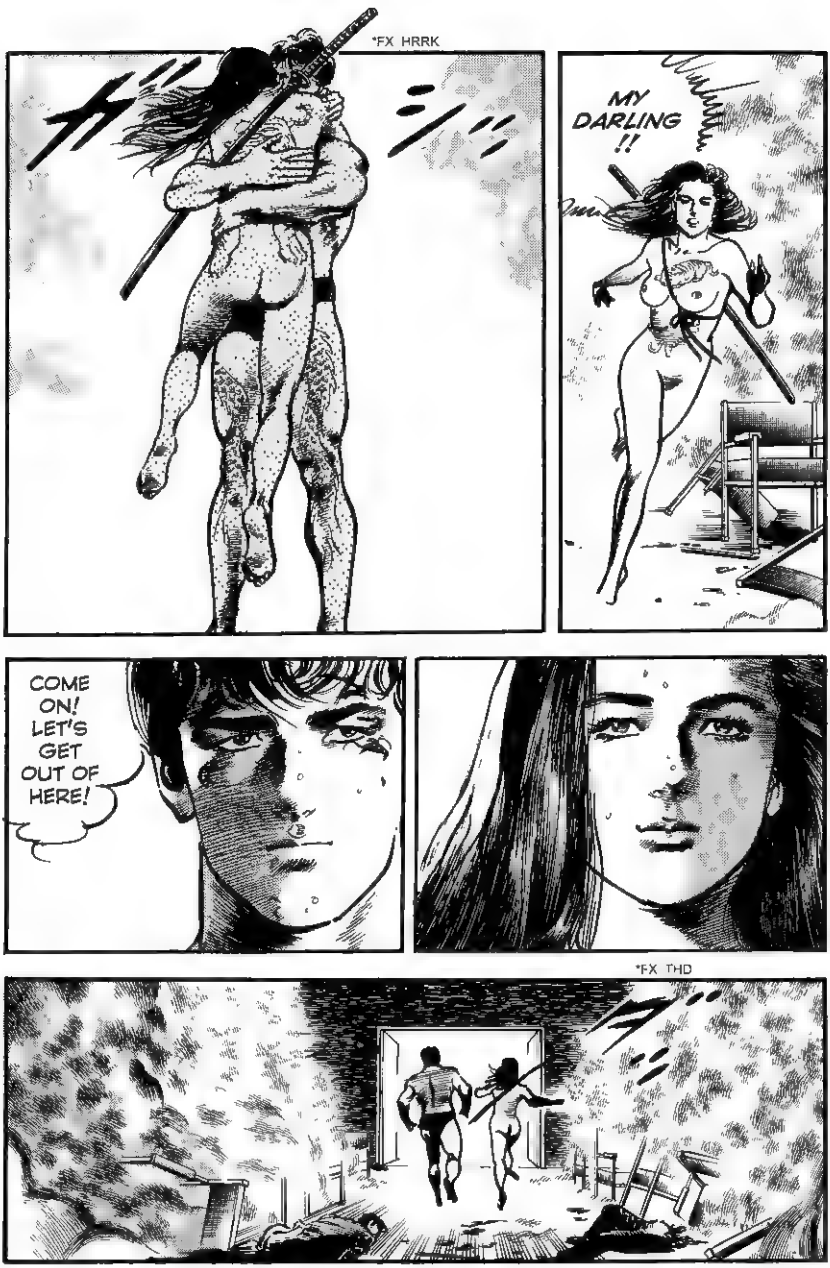
GRRA-
AHH!!
*FX GGHH GGHH
*FX THOMP
*FX SHFF
*FX AAH!

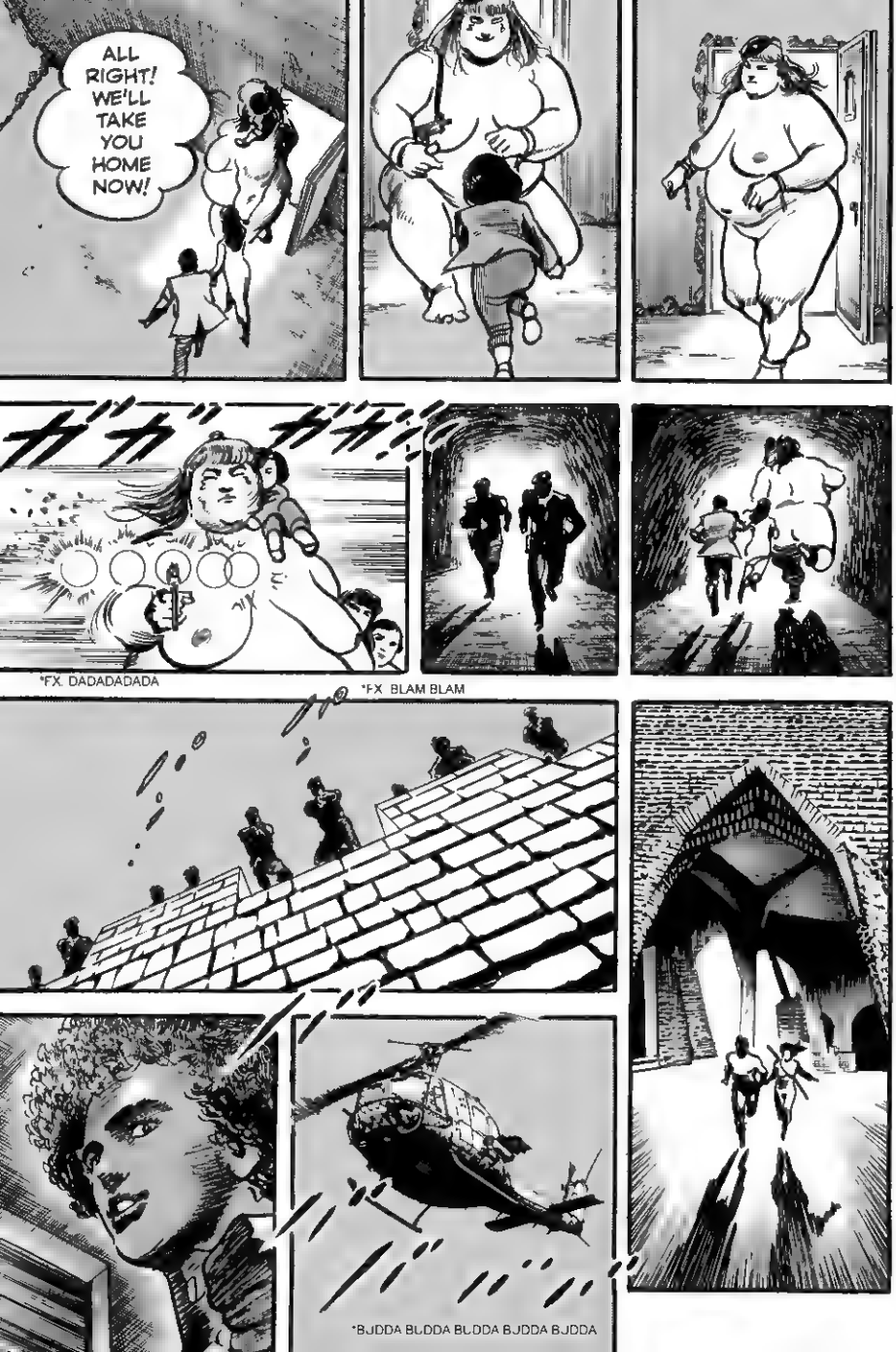




'SRRASH'
YEEAR-
GHH!!

THUD
*STAGGER
STAGGER
よろ
よろ
*FX YRRK
NINA
...
*FX WHUD

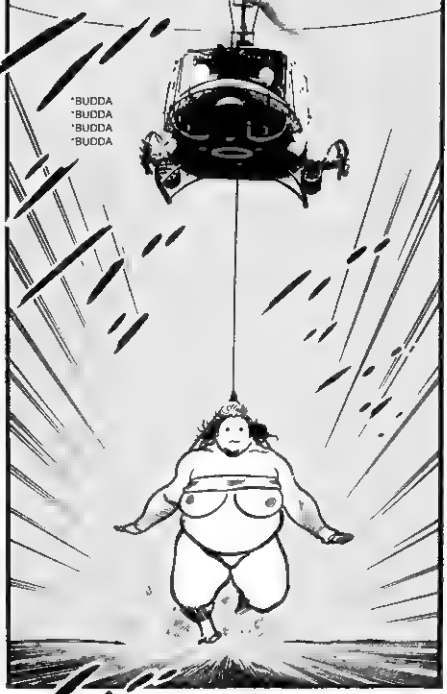

*FX HRRK
MY DARLING !!
COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
*FX THD


ALL RIGHT! WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME NOW!
*FX. DADADADADA
*FX. BLAM BLAM
*BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

*THOOM
*FX BOOM KABOOM BOOM

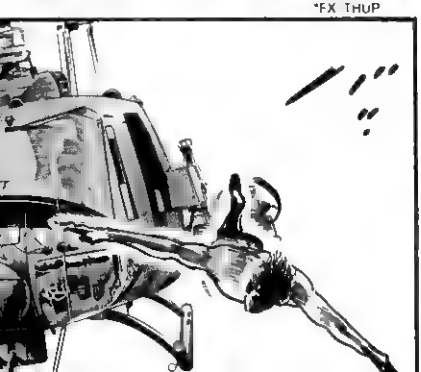
*FX BJDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BJDDA

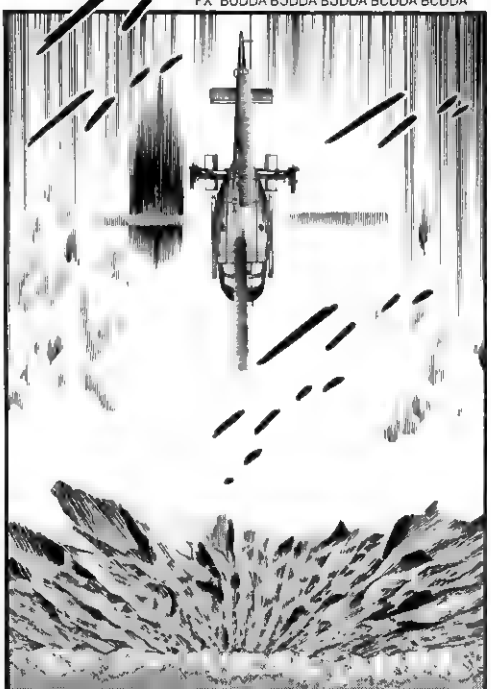
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! YOU ALL GO... I'LL COME ON FOOT!

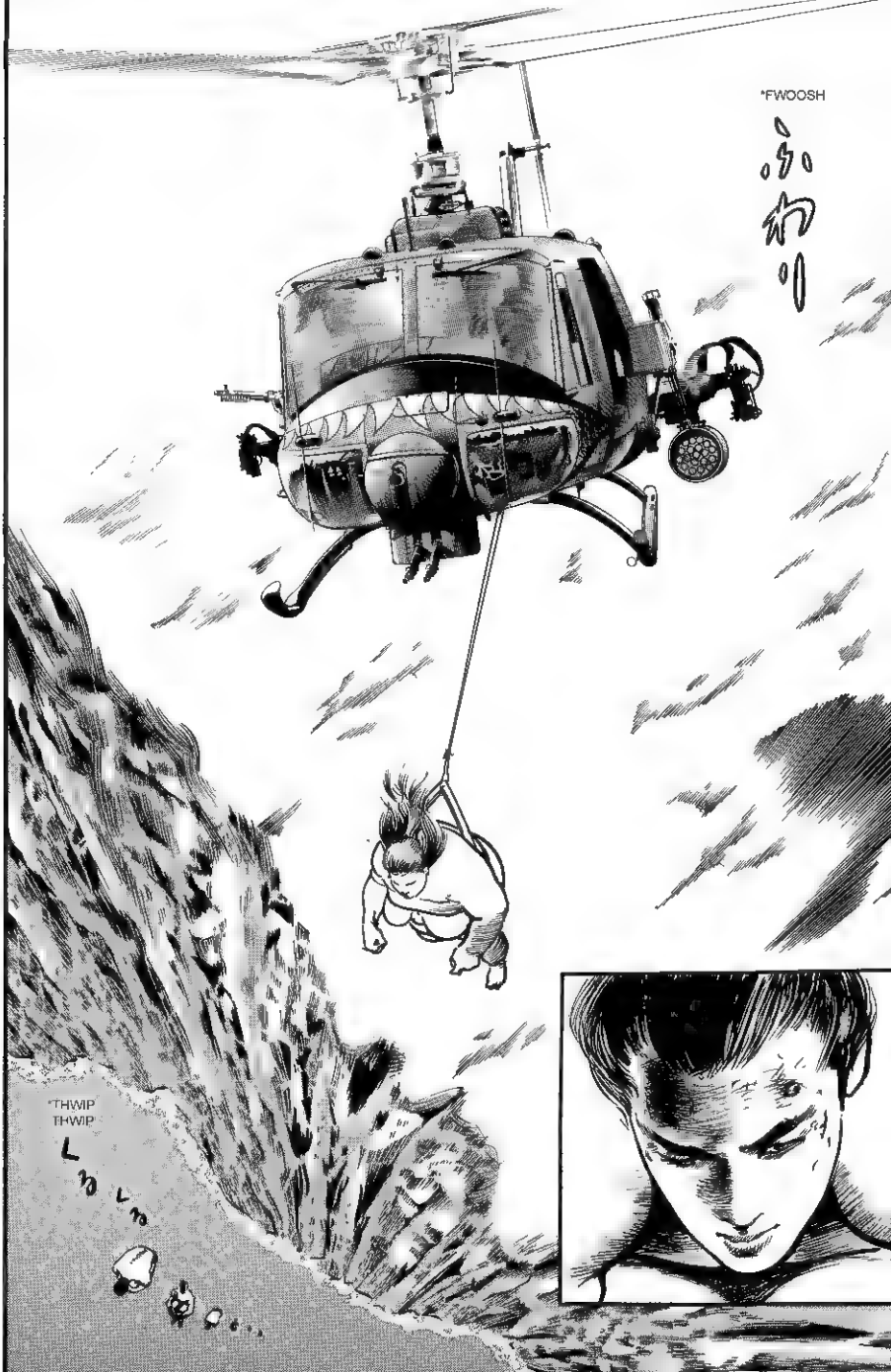


*FX BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

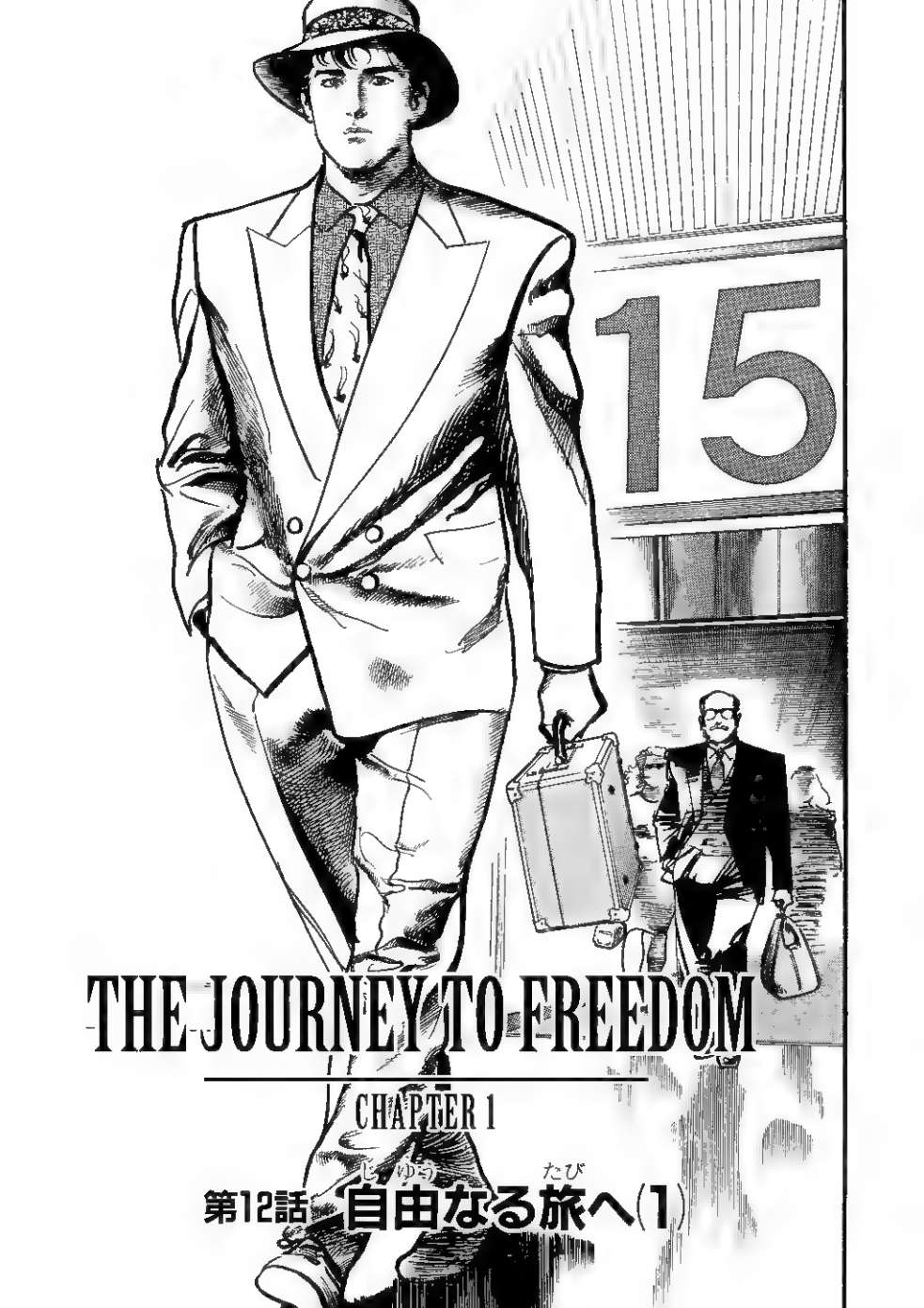
*FX THUP






*FWOOSH
*THWIP
THWIP

*FX. PHEW
*FX. SPLOOSSHH
THANK GOOD-NESS!
AAAH!!
*FX. FWAASSHH



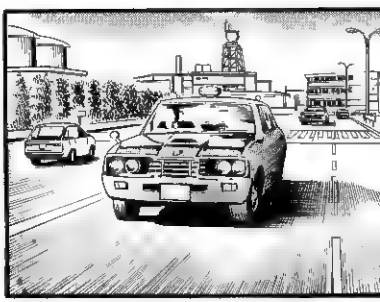
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

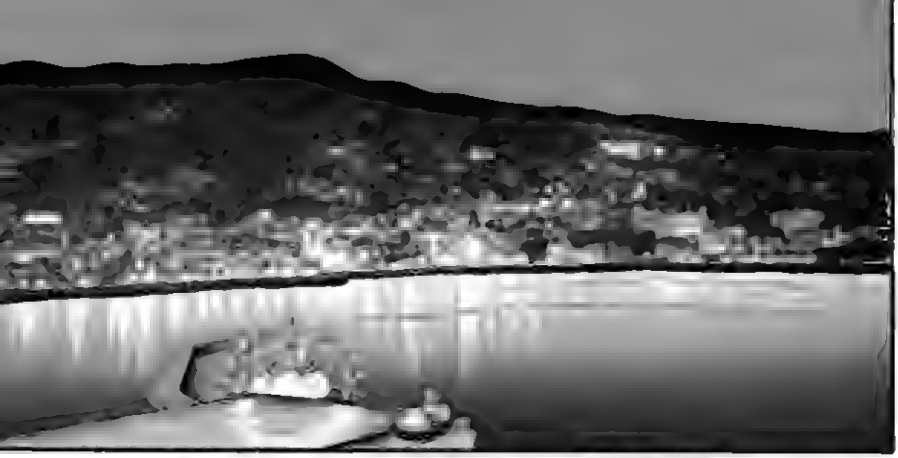
CHAPTER 1

第12話 自由なる旅へ(1)

*FX: WHRRNN WHRRNN!

*FX: OOH





*sigh KINKAI HOTEL

*FX AH
*FX OH
WHAT MIGHT WE OFFER YOU TO DRINK, SIR? BEER? SAKE?
I'LL HAVE A BEER, PLEASE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE HONOR OF BEING SUMMONED BY YOU THIS EVENING.
WE'LL LEAVE HIM WITH YOU NOW, MISS KIMIRYU.
A-HA! THE PRINCESS HAS ARRIVED!

MY NAME IS KIMI-RYU.
ALLOW ME ...
HINO-MURA. PLEASED.
SIR, MAY I ASK WHY YOU RE-QUESTED MY COM-PANY? THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, IS IT NOT?
*FX OH
YOU FLATTER ME, SIR.
AND NOW I SEE YOU TRULY ARE BEAUTIFUL. HOW COULD MY FRIEND FEEL ANYTHING BUT SUCH PAS-SION?
I HAVE A FRIEND... HE INSISTED THAT IF I WAS EVER IN ATAMI I SHOULD NOT FAIL TO CALL ON A GEISHA NAMED KIMIRYU.

THAT'S THE DEFINITION OF HANDSOME!
BUT DIDN'T YOU FIND HIM KIND OF DARK AND DISTANT?
I WAS TOTALLY DUMBSTRUCK! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A HANDSOME MAN BEFORE!

HE'S NOT ONE OF KIMIRYU'S REGULARS OR ANYTHING, IS HE?

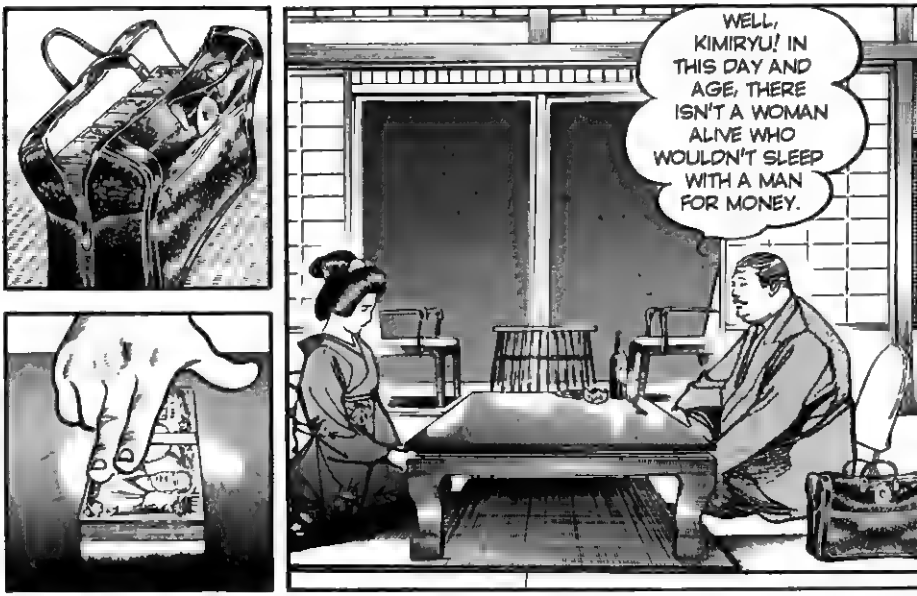
SOMETHING HINOMURA ...

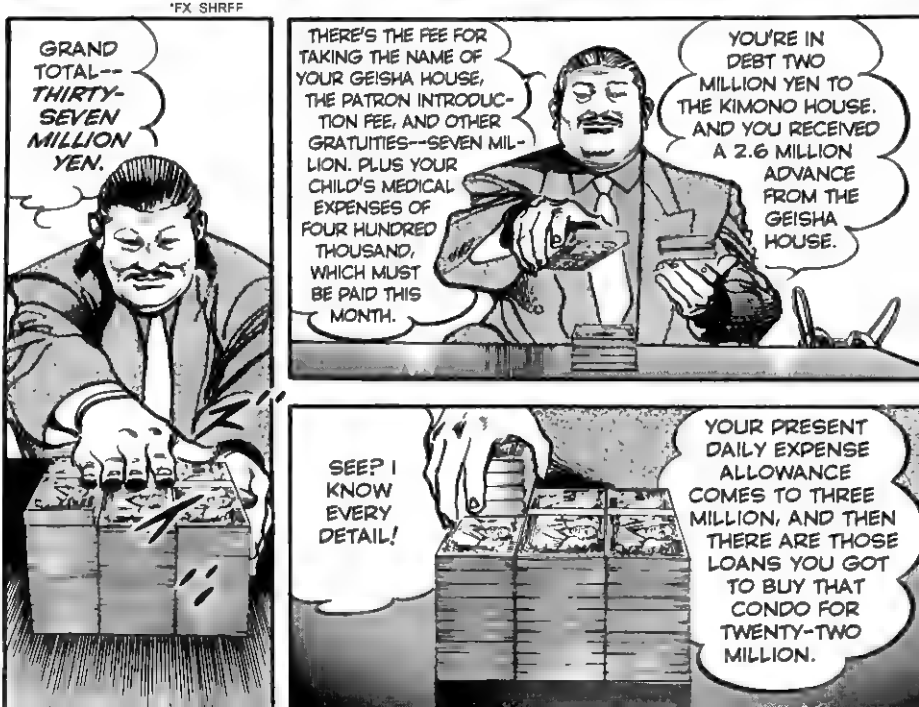
WHO IS HE, I WONDER?

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO IT...

WE WARNED HIM THAT SHE HAD A LATER APPOINTMENT AND HE'D ONLY HAVE THIRTY MINUTES, BUT HE WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER...
HE ASKED FOR HER AS SOON AS HE GOT HERE!

PLEASE EXCUSE ME. I HAVE ANOTHER EN-GAGE-MENT.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!


WELL, KIMIRYU! IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THERE ISN'T A WOMAN ALIVE WHO WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH A MAN FOR MONEY.
*FX SHRFF


GRAND TOTAL-- THIRTY-SEVEN MILLION YEN.
THERE'S THE FEE FOR TAKING THE NAME OF YOUR GEISHA HOUSE, THE PATRON INTRODUCTION FEE, AND OTHER GRATUITIES--SEVEN MILLION. PLUS YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL EXPENSES OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND, WHICH MUST BE PAID THIS MONTH.
YOU'RE IN DEBT TWO MILLION YEN TO THE KIMONO HOUSE. AND YOU RECEIVED A 2.6 MILLION ADVANCE FROM THE GEISHA HOUSE.
SEE? I KNOW EVERY DETAIL!
YOUR PRESENT DAILY EXPENSE ALLOWANCE COMES TO THREE MILLION, AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE LOANS YOU GOT TO BUY THAT CONDO FOR TWENTY-TWO MILLION.

I... I MUST REFUSE. S-SUCH AN OFFER...
YOU'RE WORTH THAT MUCH TO ME! GO AHEAD. TAKE IT. AND THEN BE MY LOVER. BE HAPPY.
LOOK!
IF YOU WON'T, THEN YOU'D BETTER PAY OFF ALL THOSE DEBTS. THE TRUTH IS, I'VE ALREADY TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM BY BUYING ALL OF THEM OUT MYSELF!
I-I'M GOING TO *WORK* TO PAY OFF MY DEBTS!
I OWN A LISTED COMPANY! BECOME THE COMMON-LAW WIFE OF YUHEI WADASHIMA AND YOU WILL BE LIVING A STATELY AND LUXURIOUS LIFE!

*FX: WHA..?

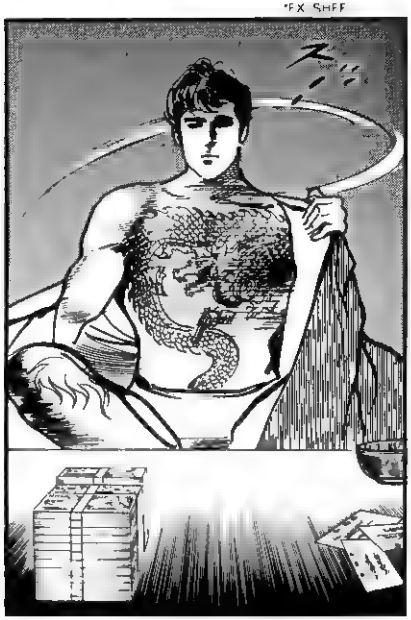
*FX: CHINK!

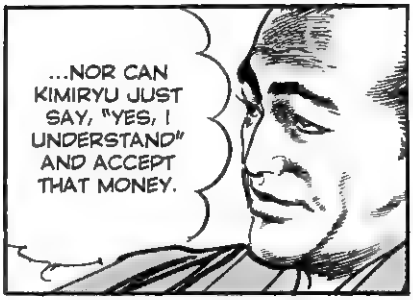
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW MY NAME.
WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU?!
IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH, I CAN GIVE HER MORE-- TWO HUNDRED, EVEN THREE HUNDRED.
I'VE BEEN EN-TRUSTED WITH ABOUT *TWO BILLION.*
TH-THE POLICE! CALL THE POLICE! A-ANYONE CARRYING AROUND *THIS* MUCH MONEY *MUST* BE A *CRIMINAL!*
GO RIGHT AHEAD.

*FX STARE
SORRY I'M LATE.
B-BOSS! JUST WHEN WE NEEDED YOU!
IS THERE SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
*FX HMPH

AS LONG AS YOU REFUSE TO TELL US YOUR NAME AND REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY, THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSION...
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. YOUNG MAN, I AM *YOSHITARO TACHIBANA* OF THE KANTO TOMOKAZU SOCIETY, AND I HAVE BEEN INDEBTED TO CHAIRMAN WADASHIMA SINCE MY EARLIEST DAYS.

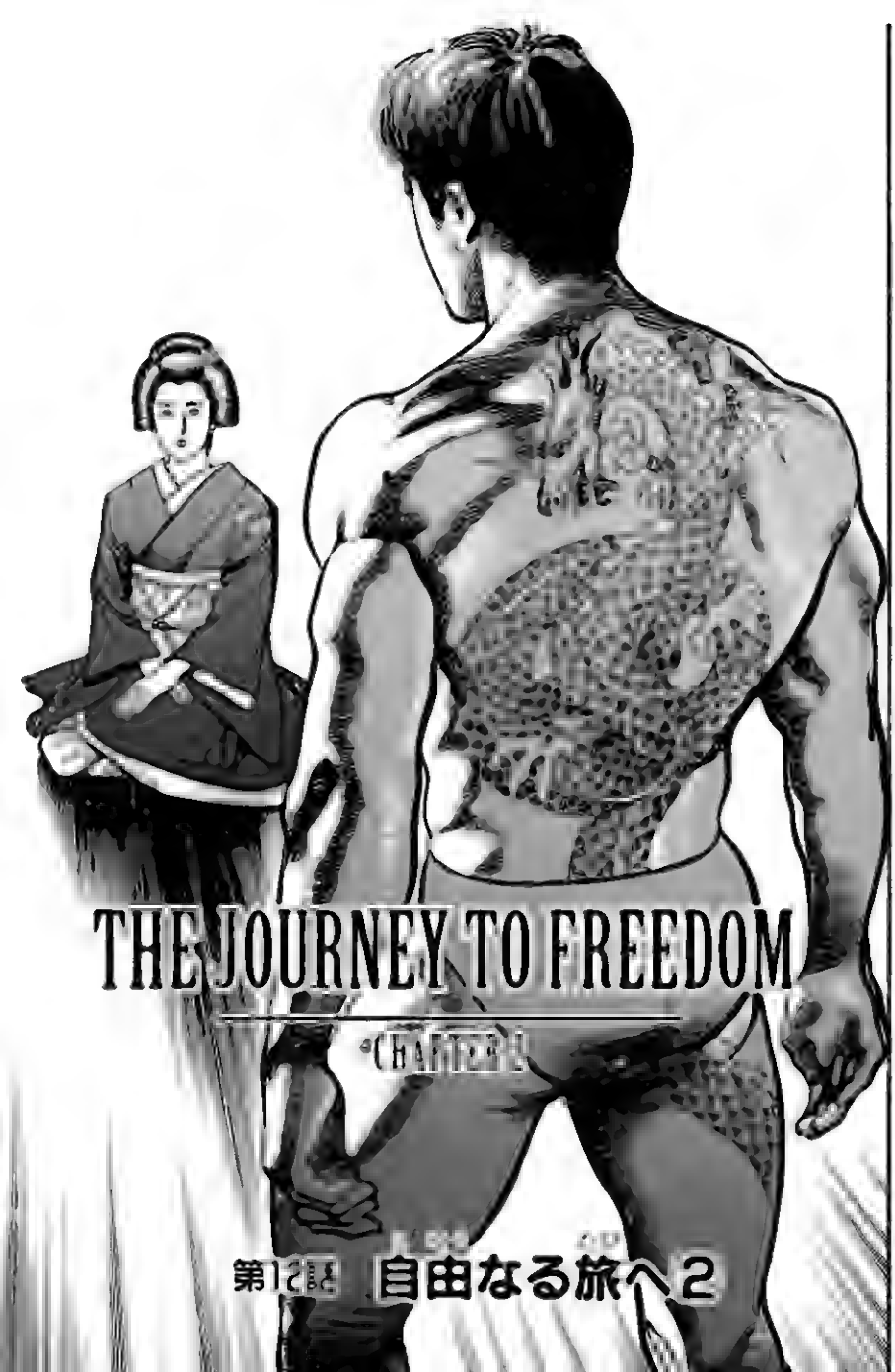
*FX: SHFF

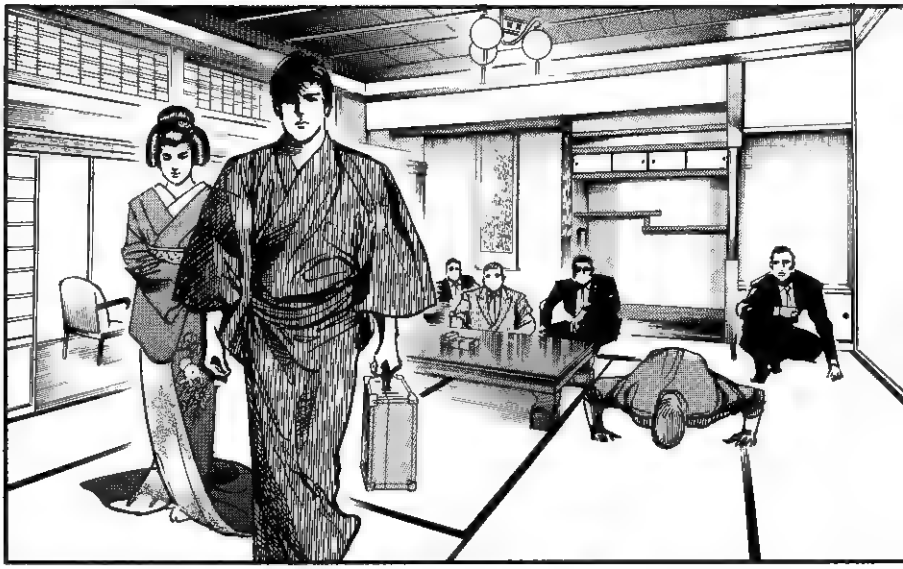
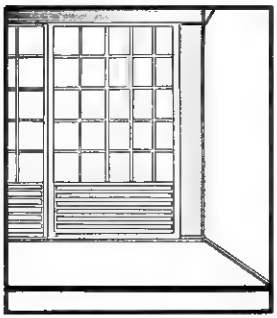


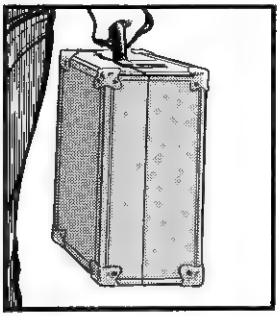

...NOR CAN KIMIRYU JUST SAY, "YES, I UNDERSTAND" AND ACCEPT THAT MONEY.

EXACTLY! YOUR INSOLENCE IS UNBE-LIEVABLE!

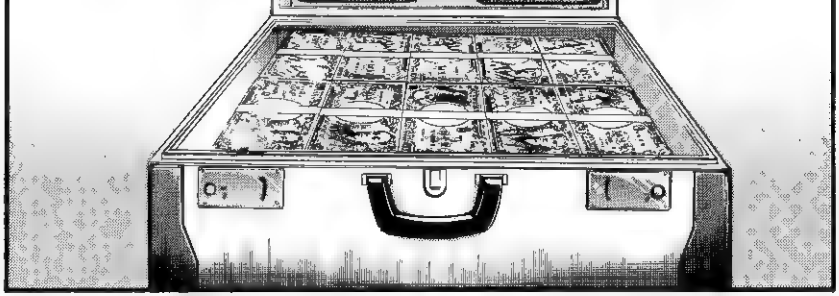
*FX AAH!
*FX WHA?
*FX SMILE
F-FOR-GIVE MY DISRE-SPECT, SIR!
PLEASE, FEEL FREE TO PUT YOUR YUKATA BACK ON!

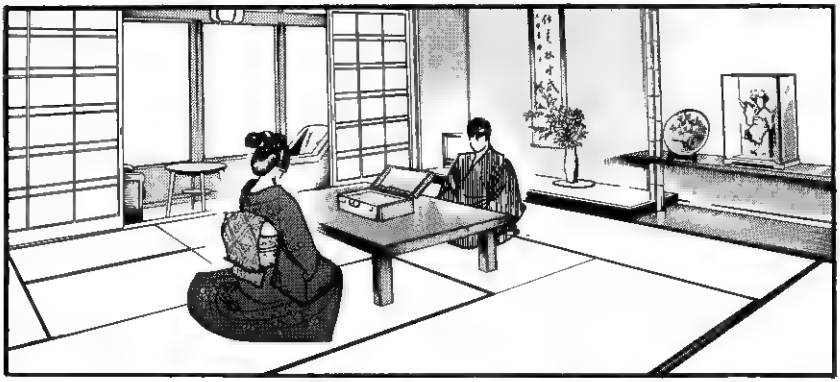

THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
CHAPTER 2
第2話 自由なる旅へ2

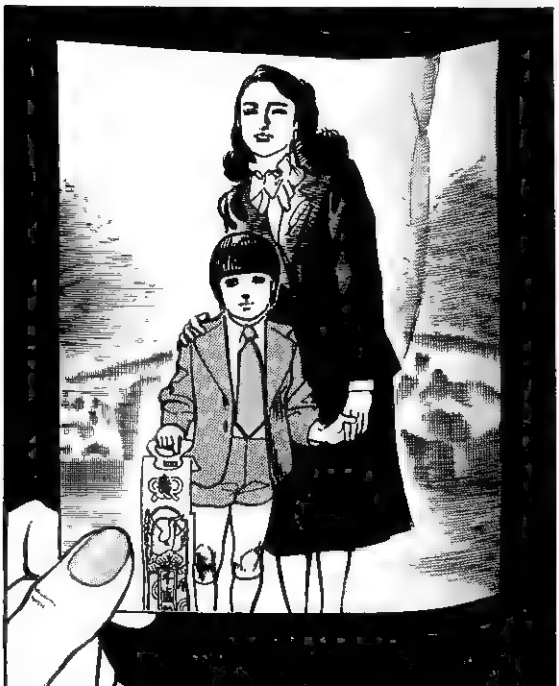





I THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING. HE'D BE A FEARSOME OPPONENT.
WH-WHO *WAS* THAT GUY?!
I'LL JUST SAY HE'S NOT JAPANESE AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.
B-BUT HE'S PRACTICALLY A *KID!* AND WHY'D YOU ALMOST PISS YOURSELF JUST 'CAUSE 'A THAT DRAGON TATTOO?
IF YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I'LL CALL THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE *MYSELF!*
WHAT?! IT'S AGAINST FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAWS FOR A FOREIGNER TO BE CARRYING AROUND THAT KINDA MONEY!!
.....
.....
.....
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AWARE, BUT THE PERSON WHO WIPED OUT KUMAGAKYO AND ITS LEADER, NAIJI KUMAGA, WAS THAT MAN.
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, CHAIRMAN, IT'S BEST YOU HAVE NOTHING WHATSO-EVER TO DO WITH THAT MAN.







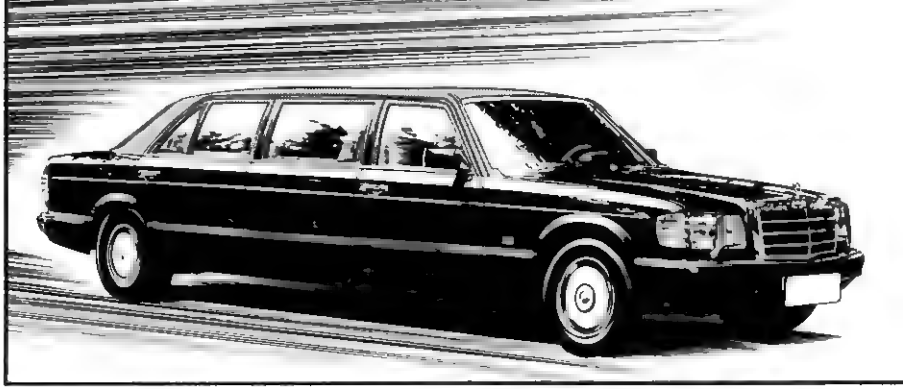
FOR YOU ...

YOUR HUSBAND, TOHGOKU OSHU, KEPT THAT PICTURE WITH HIM ALWAYS.
HE LOVED YOU, AND HE LOVED HIS SON.
AND HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS LOVED.
BUT THEN HE FOUGHT ME, LOST, AND DIED.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO COME LIVE WITH ME. WHEREVER YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD, FAMILY IS FAMILY.
*FX HMPH
THOSE WERE HIS LAST WORDS TO ME BEFORE HE FORFEITED HIS OWN LIFE.
"PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY. MAKE THEM PART OF YOUR OWN."
THIS IS HIS FIGHT MONEY. YOU AND YOUR SON HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLAIM IT. AND IF YOU SO DESIRE, I WILL BRING YOUR FAMILY INTO MY OWN.
I CANNOT ACCEPT THIS MONEY, EITHER!
I MUST REFUSE!

AS YOU'VE PROBABLY DISCOVERED FOR YOURSELF, WE DIVORCED WHEN OUR SON WAS SIX YEARS OLD.
MY LOVE FOR HIM ENDED AT THAT TIME.
I'M SURE A MAN LIKE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY WE BROKE UP.
FOR SUCH A MAN TO LET GO OF THE ONES HE LOVES WITHOUT A WORD... I THINK HIS LOVE MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY GREAT.
HIS LOVE FOR YOU NEVER CHANGED.
THAT MAY BE SO. PERHAPS HE DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR US LATER ON, AND THAT'S WHY HE LEFT SO SUBMISSIVELY.
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED HIM TO LEAVE US!
I ASKED NOT ONLY AS HIS WIFE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY AS A PERSON!
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO HOLD ME OR MY SON WITH HIS BLOODIED HANDS ANYMORE!
AND I'LL TELL YOU, TOO-- AS A PERSON-- I DON'T WANT ANY OF OSHU'S FRIENDS OR HIS OPPONENTS COMING NEAR US EVER AGAIN!
AND DON'T BRING ME ANY MONEY THAT OSHU TOUCHED WITH THOSE SAME HANDS!

*FX CLICK
IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU THESE BEFORE I GO.
OSHU WILL BE WATCHING OVER YOU THROUGH THEM.
DIAMONDS ARE THE EYES OF A DRAGON. CAT'S EYES, THE EYES OF A TIGER.
*FX SOB SOB
MISS YUKIE FUMI-YAMA, AND LITTLE YUJIN.



WELL, IF TACHIBANA DOESN'T HAVE THE BALLS FOR IT, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHERS WHO'LL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE!
GODDAMN IT! WHAT THE HELL IS THE TOP BOSS OF THE KANTO TOMOKAZU SOCIETY DOING LICKING THE BOOTS OF A BRAT PUNK LIKE THAT?! HAS HE FORGOTTEN ALL THE FAVORS I'VE DONE FOR *HIM*?!
HRMPH!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GIVING UP ON KIMIRYU! THERE'S NOT A WOMAN ON EARTH WHO WOULDN'T GET IN THE SACK FOR ENOUGH DOUGH!

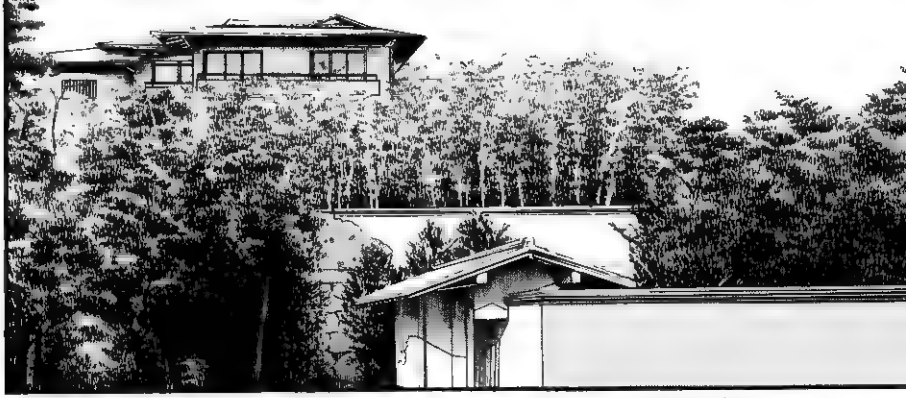
*FX BEEP BEEP

WHETHER IT COSTS ME TWO BILLION OR DOUBLE THAT!

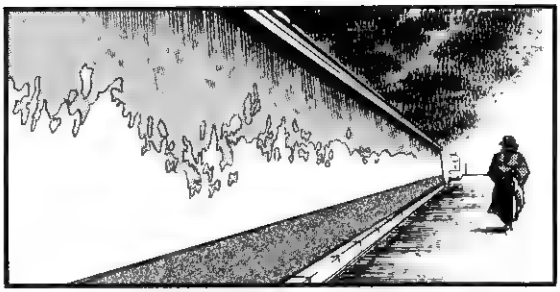
*FX. CHIK
OH, AND THE GUY'S A GOURMET, SO MAKE SURE THERE'S SOME KINDA FINE SPREAD LAID OUT.
GET IN TOUCH WITH *TATEOKA, THE POET*, FOR ME! I'LL BE PULLING INTO TOKYO 'BOUT TWO O'CLOCK, SO TELL HIM TO COME 'ROUND TO MY HOUSE AT THREE.
*FX GRIN
NO MATTER WHAT-- I'LL MAKE HER MINE!!
THERE AIN'T A LOTTA DAMES OUT THERE WHO'D WANNA LOOK AFTER ME IN MY OLD AGE. I'LL SPEND MY ENTIRE FORTUNE TO GET HER IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!
MISS KIMIRYU'S SON, RIGHT? HE'S GOT ASTHMA, BUT HE'S GOTTEN MUCH BETTER NOW! MISS KIMIRYU MOVED HERE ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO JUST SO HE COULD RECUPERATE IN THE COUNTRY.
OH, YES!
I'D LIKE TO ASK ABOUT A PATIENT NAMED YUJIN FUMI-YAMA...?
*FX UHH

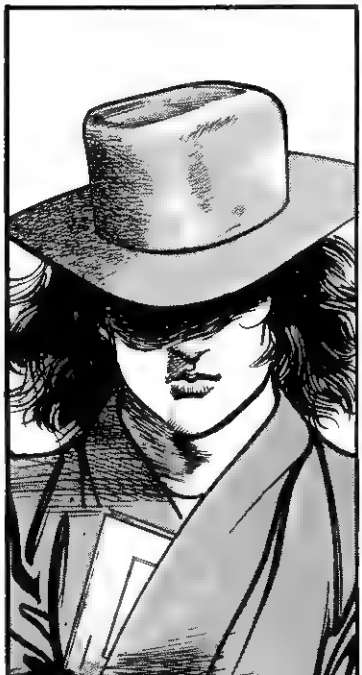
*sign YUJIN FUMIYAMA
*FX KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
文山雄人様
*FX FOOSH
*FX HUH?
I'M OBLIGED TO GIVE YUJIN A FINAL MESSAGE FROM HIS FATHER AS WELL.

YUJIN, I FOUGHT YOUR FATHER. MY NAME IS YO HINOMURA.
*FX. AAH!
あ
JUST BE SILENT, PLEASE.
WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



*sign WADASHIMA

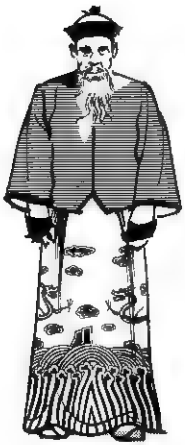


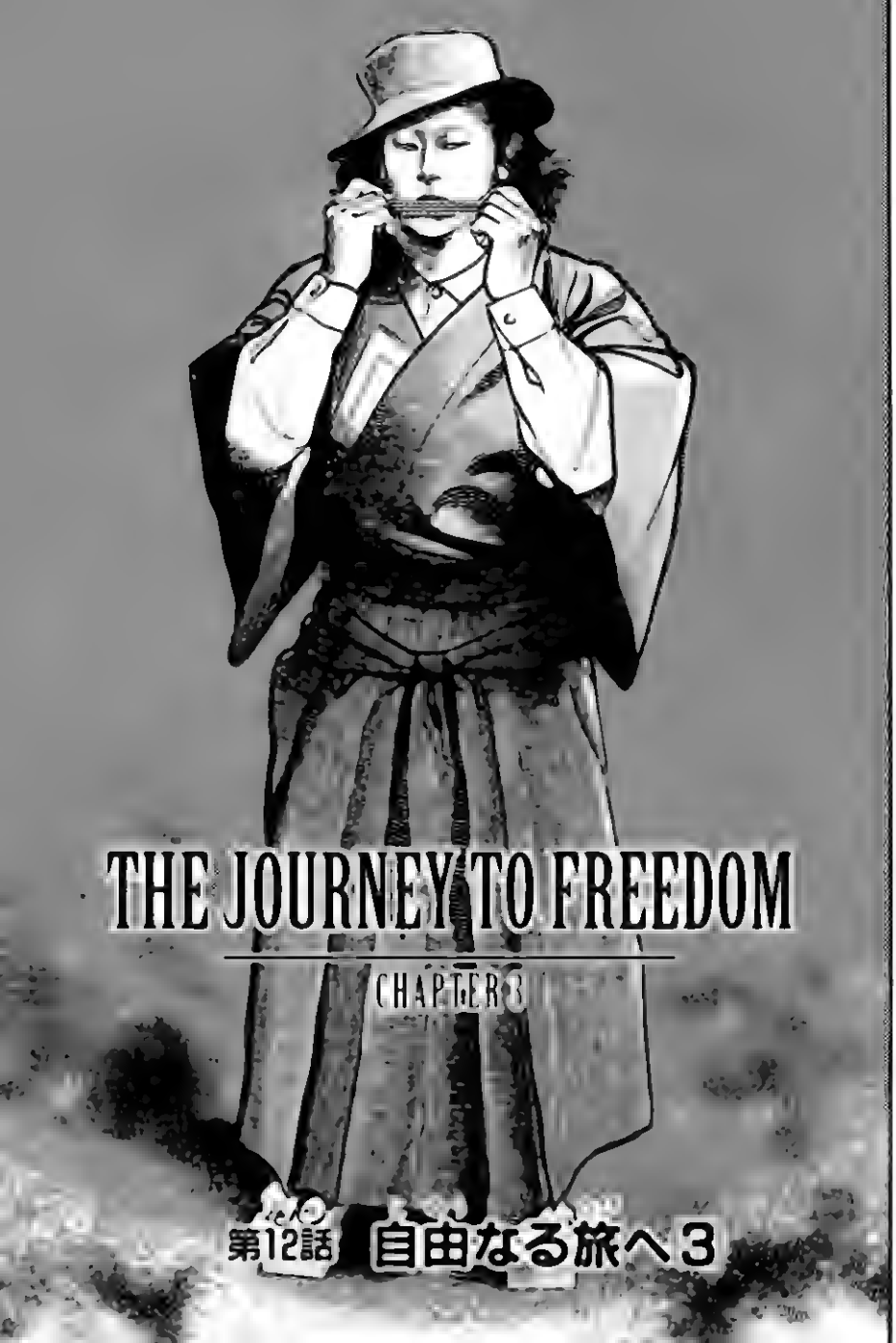


*button: PUSH

LOOK AT THIS DRAGON! YOUR FATHER POUNDED THIS DRAGON WITH HIS FISTS, OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
WE FOUGHT FOR OUR VERY LIVES, WITH ALL OUR POWER...
YOUR FATHER WAS STRONG. HIS STRENGTH WAS FAR GREATER THAN MINE, IN FACT.
...BUT LUCK WAS NOT WITH YOUR FATHER. THE LUCK TO WIN WAS MINE.
NOW I WANT YOU TO STRIKE THIS DRAGON, TOO, SO YOU CAN FEEL YOUR FATHER'S STRENGTH!
YOUR FATHER SQUEEZED THIS DRAGON WITH HIS MASSIVE ARMS!
THIS DRAGON STILL BEARS THE SCARS OF ITS BATTLE WITH YOUR FATHER!

*FX WHJP
COME ON! WHY ARE YOU WAITING?! YOUR FATHER WAS THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD!!
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP





THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

CHAPTER 3

第12話 自由なる旅へ3

*FX WHUP
PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT!
YES!! YES!! THAT'S IT!!
HIT ME WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH!
*FX WHUP
*FX WHJP WHJP
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE STRONG! YOU'RE GOING TO BE STRONGER THAN YOUR FATHER!

YOUR SICKNESS IS NOTHING!
YOU CAN BEAT IT, TOO! YOU CAN BEAT YOUR SICKNESS, AND ANYTHING ELSE!
*FX. WHUP WHUP
YOU CAN HEAR THE DRAGON WAILING IN PAIN!
*FX. HNN HNN HNN
*FX. SHKK
セエ!
セエ!セエ!
*FX. AAH!

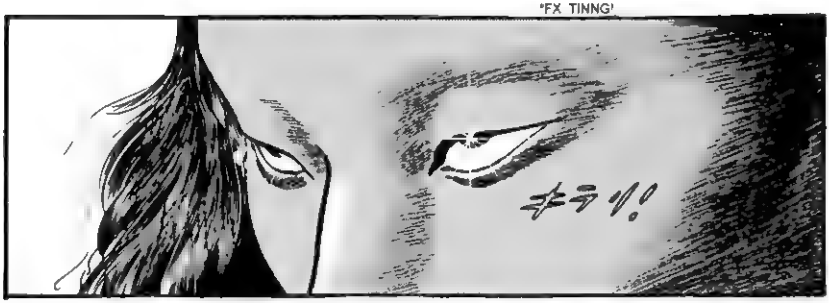
YOU'VE KNOCKED THE DRAGON OVER! NOW HIT IT AGAIN! ONE LAST EFFORT!!
FX WHUP WHUP
GRRA AHH!!
THIS IS FOR MY DAD!!

*GRRAAHH!
*WHUP
*WHUP
*WHUP
*WHUP

*THUMP
*FX WAAAHH

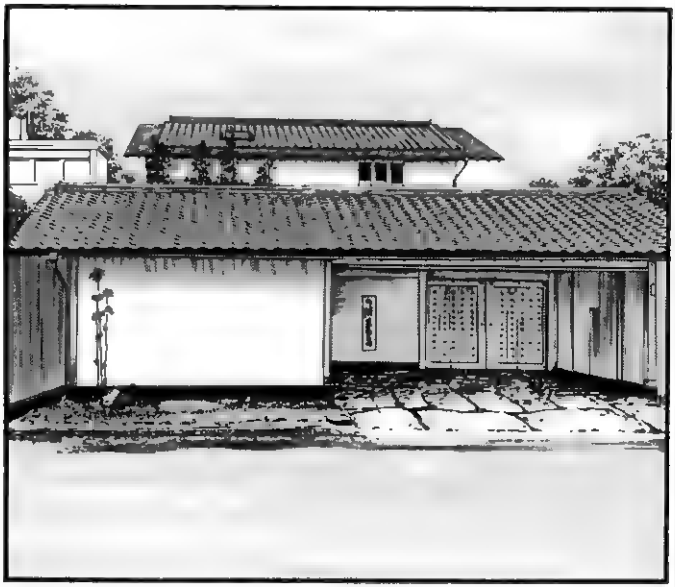
SO, KATEOKA, THAT'S THE STORY.
WHO THE HELL WAS HE? YOU'RE THE MINSTREL OF THE UNDER-WORLD. YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY IDEA?
WH-WHO IS HE?
A HANDSOME MAN WITH DRAGON TATTOOS COVERING HIS WHOLE BODY COULD ONLY BE...

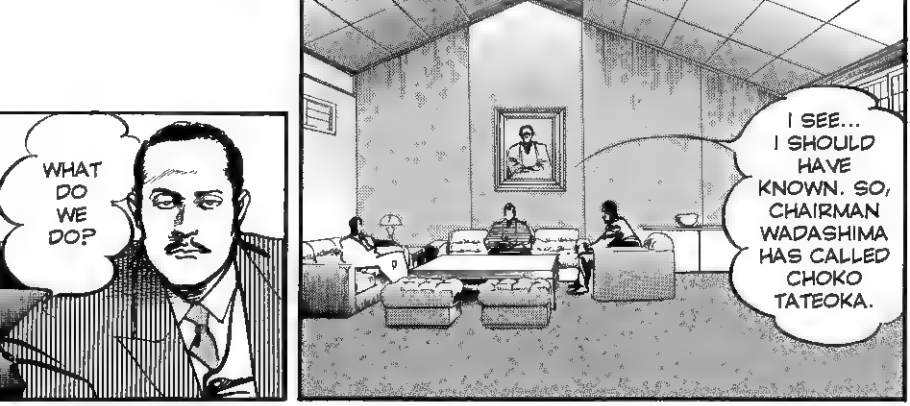
FX TINNG



WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! WHO ARE THE "108 DRAGONS ...?!"
A MAN YOUR BOSS, TACHIBANA, WOULD BE RIGHT TO BE AFRAID OF.
LONG TAI YANG. CRYING FREEMAN OF THE 108 DRA-GONS.

*sign KANTO TOMOKAZU SOCIETY




WHAT DO WE DO?
I SEE... I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. SO, CHAIRMAN WADASHIMA HAS CALLED CHOKO TATEOKA.

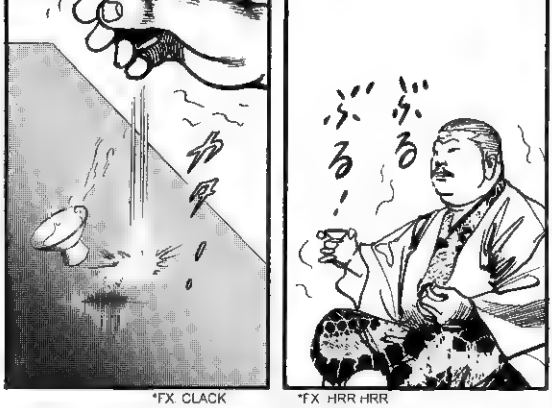
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE CHAIRMAN NOW. WE'RE COUNTING ON HIS FINANCIAL POWER TO SOLIDIFY THE UNION OF KANTO'S YAKUZA TOWARDS FORMING THE GREAT SYNDICATE WE'VE BEEN STRIVING SO HARD FOR.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE CARE OF TATEOKA OURSELVES, DO WE? HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO LAY A FINGER ON FREEMAN, FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S SAKE. IF HE MAKES AN ENEMY OF FREEMAN, HE'LL HAVE NO HOPE OF BEATING HIM.

ELIMINATE TATEOKA!

*FX. GRIN

THIS IS TRULY DELECTABLE! I AM INDEBTED TO YOU FOR ALWAYS ALLOWING ME TO PARTAKE OF SUCH FINE MEALS!
HE'S IN ATAMI AS WE SPEAK. WILL YOU OFF HIM FOR ME, TATEOKA?
WILL TWENTY MILLION YEN DO IT?
YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU! YOU'LL TAKE ON A JOB WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANY CONDITIONS!
CONSIDER IT DONE.
YOU FOOL! I HAVE REPORTS THAT HE'S AFTER MY LIFE, DON'T I?!
DEAR, WHY MUST YOU GO AFTER THIS MAN?
YES, THAT'S FINE.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! THERE'S THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO RESENT ME!
BUT JUST *WHO* HIRED HIM TO COME KILL YOU?
HE'S A TOP ASSASSIN! IF I DON'T MAKE THE FIRST MOVE, I'M A DEAD MAN!
THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO IS POISON THE SON OF THE GEISHA, KIMIRYU.
WELL, PLEASE BE CAREFUL. I'M FRIGHTENED.
BUT THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. I HAVE THE ANTIDOTE.
IT'S A MARVELOUS POISON. IT MAKES THE ARMS AND LEGS USELESS. LOOKS LIKE PARTIAL PARALYSIS.
WHA--?!
I-I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D BE SO CLEVER, BUT ARE YOU REALLY SURE IT'LL WORK? THE LAST THIS I WANT TO DO IS ANYTHING THAT'LL MAKE KIMIRYU SAD.
THAT'S HOW I PLAN TO HURT HIM. PLEASE TRUST EVERYTHING TO ME.
OHH!


ぶる!
*FX CLACK
*FX HRR HRR

WH-WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING TO ME...?
URR... MY... LIMBS... GONE NUMB... URR...

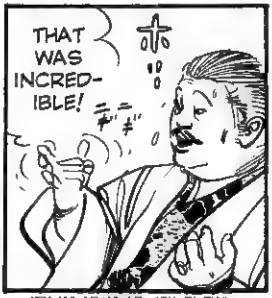
HUKK ...

AND HERE'S THE ANTI-DOTE.

WHA --?!

I JUST GAVE YOU A SMALL DOSE OF THE POISON.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THEN.


THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE!
*FX WHAP WHAP
*FX PHEW

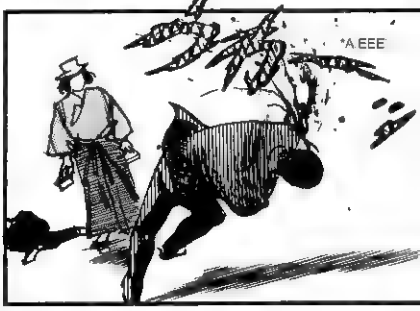
*FX KLIP KLOP

*FX THWIP
*FX FLIT
*FX WHOOSH
*FX WHACK

*FX SNNIK
*FX KSSHH
YEEARGH!!

*SHIT
*FX SHJKK

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN BEAT 'IM... H-HE'LL... KILL US ALL...
T-TATEOKA! STAY AWAY FROM FREEMAN !!

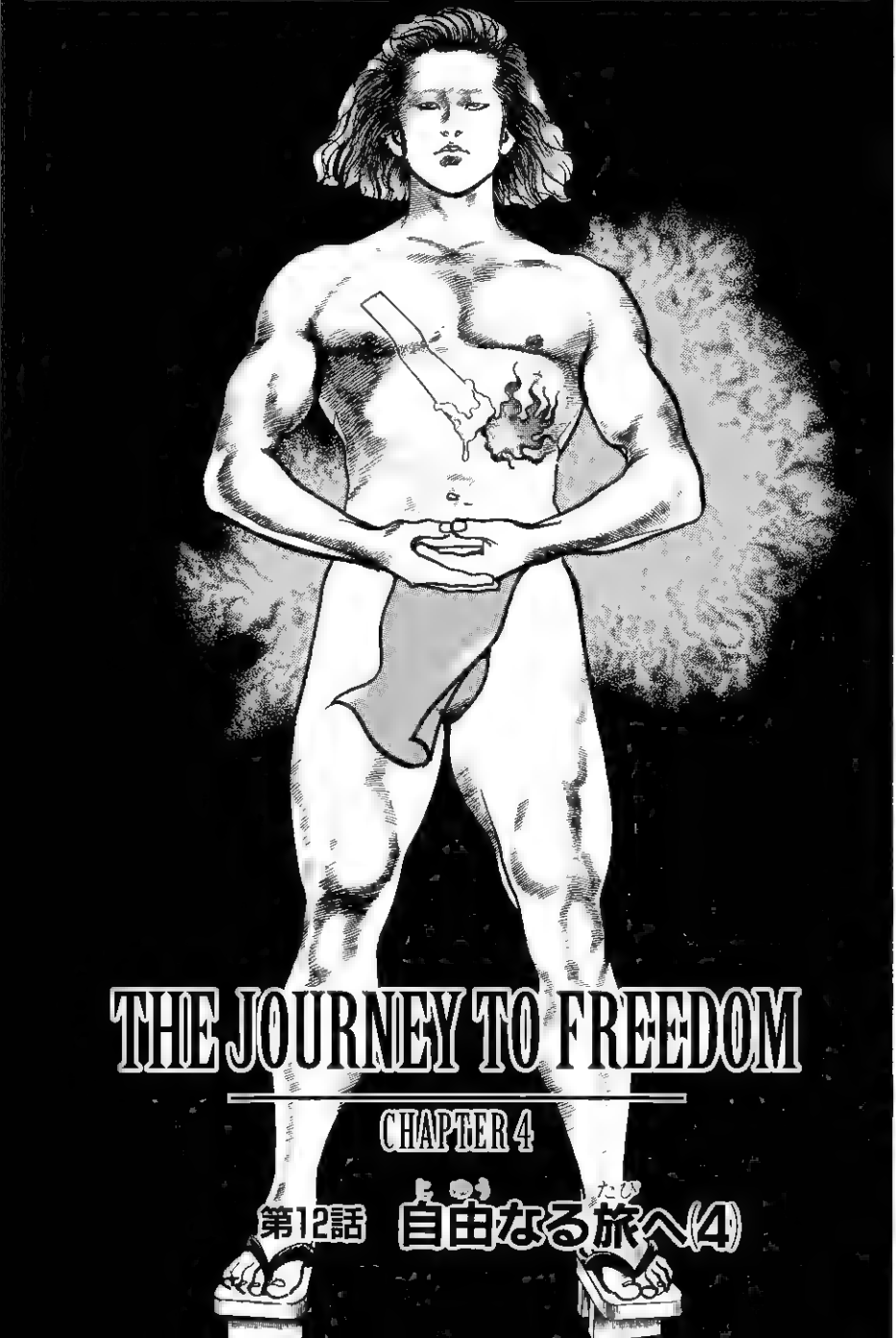

*A EEE

IS THAT WHY YOU TRIED TO KILL ME?

EVEN IF WE ALL JOINED UP AND CAME AT HIM TOGETHER, WE'D NEVER BEAT 'IM...
CHAIRMAN WADASHIMA, OUR BOSS, EVEN YOU...

THEY SHOULD BE COVERING THE GROUND.
WHERE DO THE BODIES OF ALL THOSE SWARMING RED DRAGON-FLIES DISAP-PEAR TO?
YOU LOT CAN DISAPPEAR, TOO.
THE RED DRAGONFLIES ALL SWARM AND FALL TO THE EARTH. I KNOW IT'S AUTUMN.
I MUST BE OFF TODAY. NOTHING'S COMING TO ME!
BLOODY HUE IS... HMM... UMM...
THE BURNING TWILIGHT'S BLOODY HUE IS... HMM... HMM... UHH...

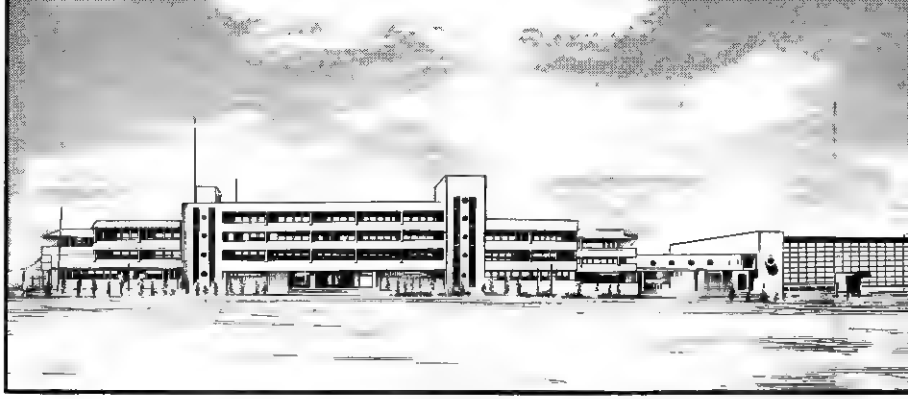
FX: KLIP KLOP



THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

CHAPTER 4

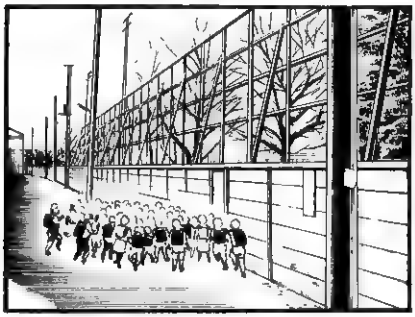
第12話　自由なる旅へ(4)



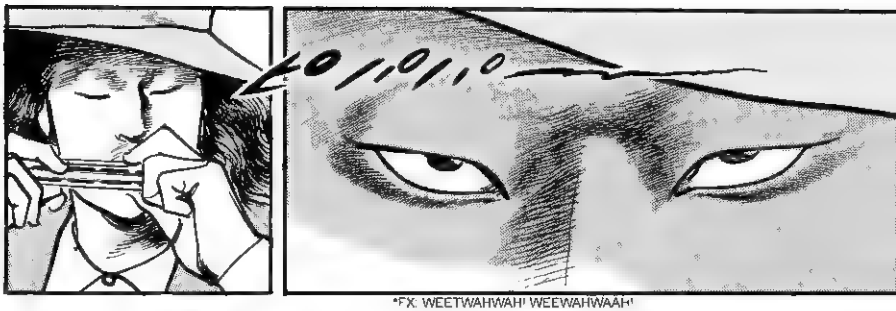
GOOD-BYE, TEACHER!

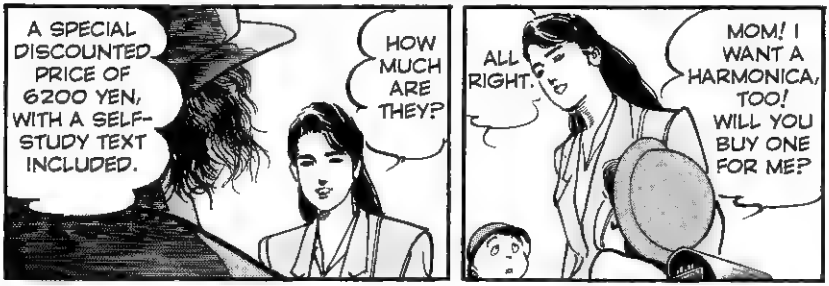
SEE YOU AGAIN TOMOR-ROW!

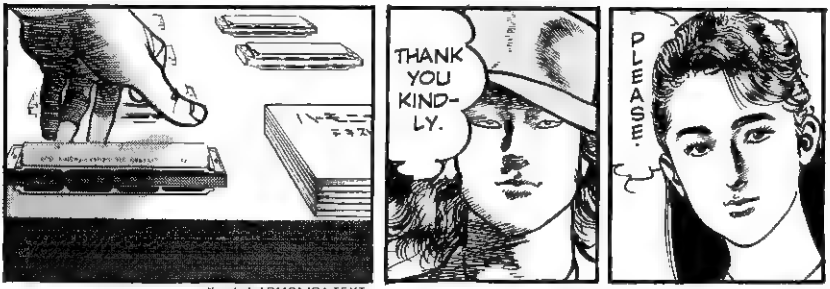
THANK YOU. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US ...
THANK GOOD-NESS YOU'RE BACK TO HEALTH!

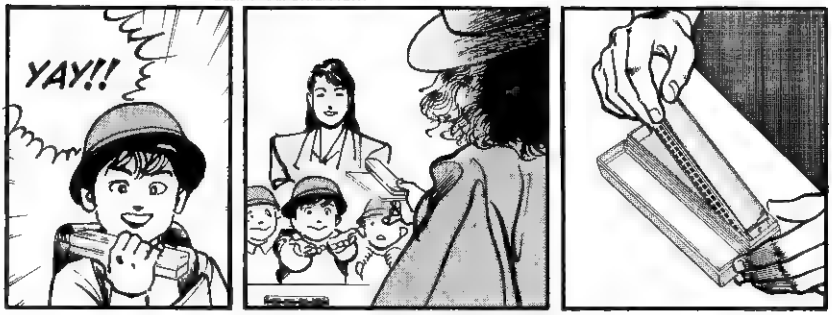


*FX TWEE HWA ROO HOO HEE HOO
*A Sentimental Journey in Mud, a popular Enka song from 1986 performed by Daisaku Ogata
WELL, THEN, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY. BY REQUEST-- "MUSHAKU RYOJO."
A-HA!
"MUSHAKU RYOJO!"*
NEXT REQUEST?
*FX WEETWAHWAH! WEETWAHWAH HWANG HWANG


*FX: WEETWAHWAH! WEEWAHWAAH!


A SPECIAL DISCOUNTED PRICE OF 6200 YEN, WITH A SELF-STUDY TEXT INCLUDED.
HOW MUCH ARE THEY?
ALL RIGHT.
MOM! I WANT A HARMONICA, TOO! WILL YOU BUY ONE FOR ME?

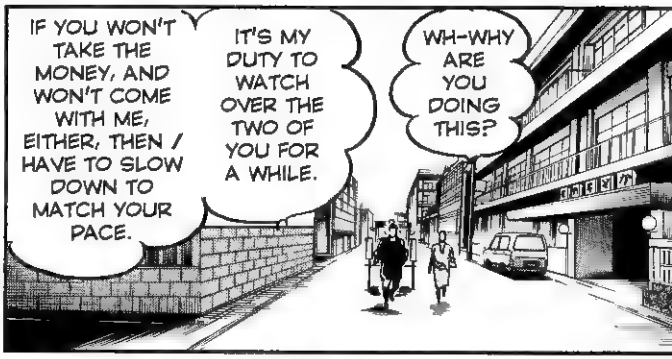

*book HARMONICA TEXT
THANK YOU KIND-LY.
PLEASE.

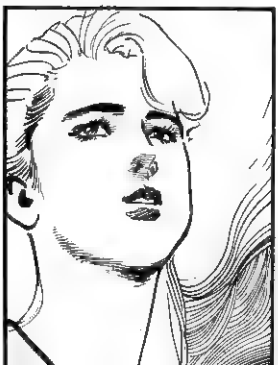

YAY!!

*FX HUH?!
HEY, MR. HINO-MURA!
*FX TP TP TP
YEAH! LEMME IN! LEMME IN!
YOU WANT A RIDE, YUJIN?

*FX YAAYY!
*FX WHOOSH

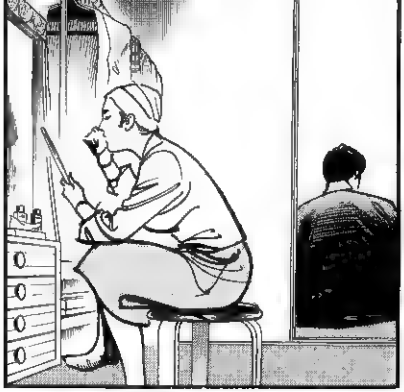
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. PLEASE, JUST LEAVE.


IF YOU WON'T TAKE THE MONEY, AND WON'T COME WITH ME, EITHER, THEN I HAVE TO SLOW DOWN TO MATCH YOUR PACE.
IT'S MY DUTY TO WATCH OVER THE TWO OF YOU FOR A WHILE.
WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

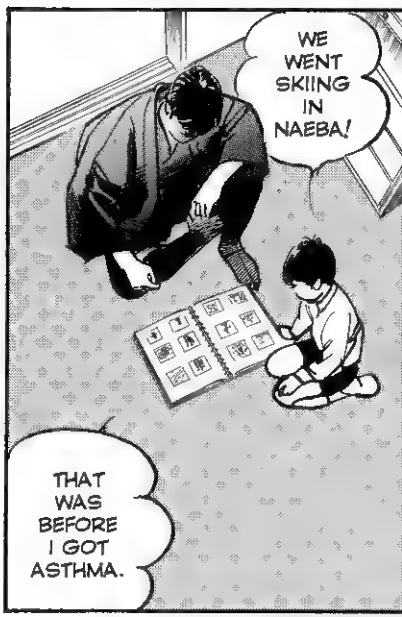


THIS IS PRETTY FUN! I TALKED TO THE LOCAL BUREAU OF TOURISM, AND THEY'RE GONNA LET ME DO THIS FOR A WHILE.
THAT'S UP TO ME.

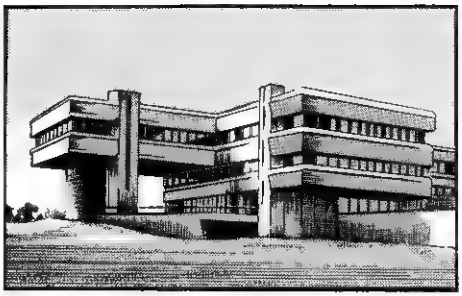
YOUR PROBLEMS WILL BE FAR, FAR WORSE IF YOU REFUSE.
TODAY AND TOMORROW-- JUST TWO DAYS-- I'M GOING TO BE DOING THE PATIENT EXAMINATIONS IN YOUR PLACE. TODAY'S ALMOST OVER, AND TOMORROW YOUR OFFICE WOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED ANYWAY SO I DON'T SEE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM, DO YOU?
B-BUT... EVEN AT THE REQUEST OF MR. WADASHIMA ...
COME ON NOW, TAKE IT!
PLUS, THERE ARE ALL THOSE DEBTS YOU OWE.
PLEASE, NURSE. YOU DON'T WANT EVERY-ONE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR AFFAIR WITH DOCTOR KUMAI IN SURGERY, NOW DO YOU?



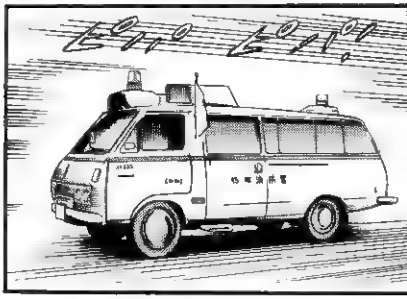
THIS IS MY DAD!

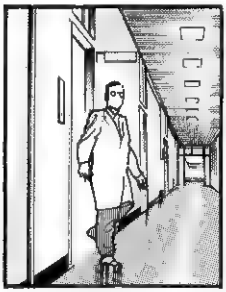

WE WENT SKIING IN NAEBA!
THAT WAS BEFORE I GOT ASTHMA.

...BUT THEN I QUIT WHEN I GOT ASTHMA. I LOST MY OLD HARMONICA, TOO, BUT TODAY MY MOM BOUGHT ME A NEW ONE!
A LONG TIME AGO, MY FATHER TAUGHT ME...
I'LL PLAY THE HARMONICA FOR YA, MR. HINOMURA!
*FX WEET WEET WEET WAHWAHN
*FX TUNK
WH-WHAT'S WRONG?! YUJIN!!
*FX HRR HRR HRR
*FX AAH



*FX WEEOO WEEOO!





*FX AAH

HE'S AN AUTHORITY ON THINGS LIKE IDIOSYNCRA-SIES AND ALLERGIES.
I THINK IF YOU GO SEE DR. KITAGAWA, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOME-THING FOR YOU.

*FX HRR HRR

*sign KITAGAWA CLINIC

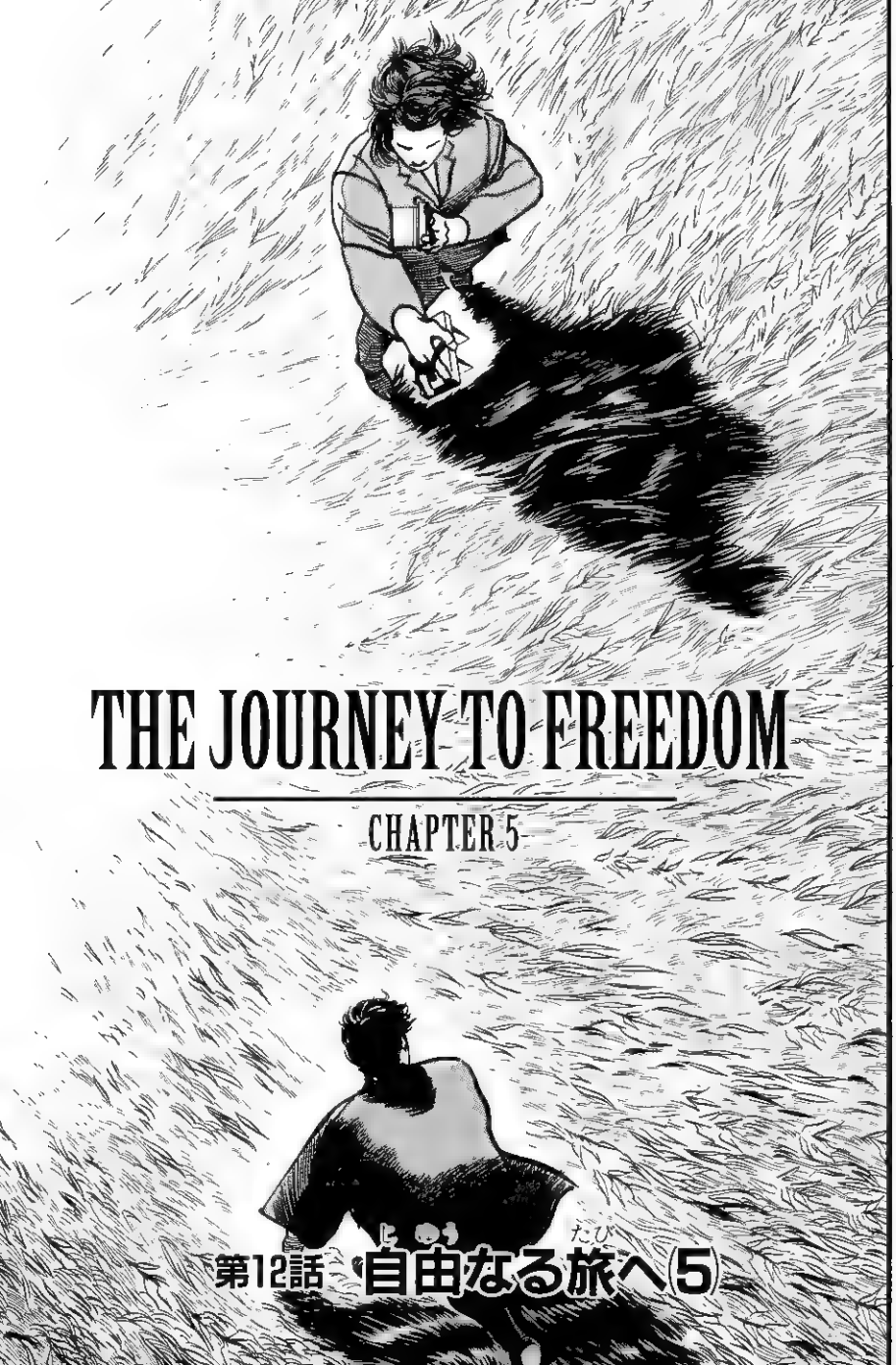
北川医院
COME! HURRY!

*FX HRR HRR HRR
DON'T WORRY. I HAVE THE MEDICINES HERE TO MAKE HIM WELL AGAIN IN NO TIME.
WHAT?!
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HIM A SEDATIVE TO PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
Y-YOU WERE THE ONE SELLING THE HARMONICAS...!
HUH?!
*FX SHFF

*KSS
*WHACK
*SMASH

URRR ...
THAT MEDICINE WAS VERY EXPENSIVE! IT WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE, LONG TA! YANG, A.K.A. FREEMAN!
"F.x. HRR HRR"
I AM CHOKO TATEOKA, MINSTREL OF THE UNDERWORLD! IT IS AN HONOR, FREEMAN!!

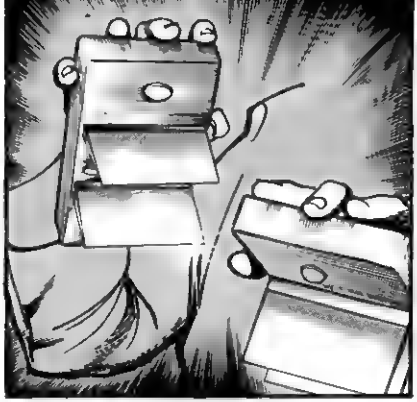
*FX. URR
HEH HEH HEH! IF YOU KILL ME, YOU DON'T GET THE ANTIDOTE!!
*FX. T NNG'



THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

CHAPTER 5

第12話　自由なる旅へ5



*FX. HRR HRR HRR

*FX. HRR RR

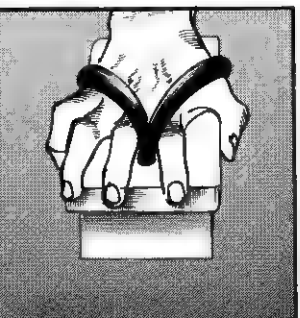
SO, WILL FREEMAN DIE, OR WILL YOUR SON?
HEH HEH HEH HEH... HOW CRUEL FATE CAN BE!
THE SAME WILL HAPPEN IF YOU CALL THE POLICE! I ONLY HAVE ONE WHO HAS THE COUNTER-AGENT TO NEUTRALIZE THE POISON I COATED THE HARMONICA WITH!
KIMIRYU! IF I BEAT HIM, I'LL GIVE YOU THE ANTIDOTE. IF I LOSE, THEN IT WILL NEVER BE YOURS!
WHAT'S WRONG, LONG TAI YANG? THEY SAY THAT FREEMAN HAS TAKEN EVERY KIND OF POISON TO MAKE HIS BODY IMMUNE, AND YET HERE, THANKS TO MY POISON, YOU CAN HARDLY MOVE YOUR LIMBS? HAHAHA-HAHAHA!
HEH HEH HEH... AND YOU GOT JUST THE TINIEST LITTLE DOSE...
URR...

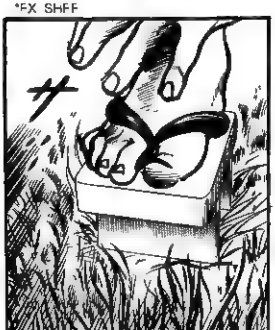
DON'T YOU CARE IF YOUR CHILD DIES?!
THE PARALYSIS WILL REACH HIS HEART WITHIN EIGHT HOURS!
*FX THD
*FX FWSH
GYAAA!

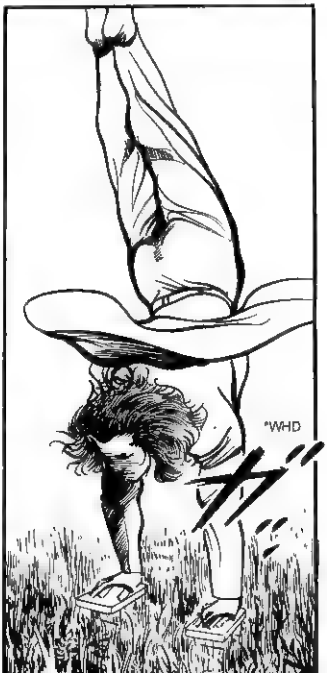
*FX FWIP

*FX FWIP

*FX SHFF







*FX FWIP FWIP

*WHKK
*WHKK
*WHKK
*WHKK
*FWIP FWIP

TRULY, THEY DON'T CALL YOU THE WORLD'S GREATEST ASSASSIN FOR NOTHING!
YOUR REFLEXES ARE REMARKABLE.
わ
GYAAA!!
BY DEFEATING CRYING FREEMAN, MY NAME WILL RESOUND THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD FOR ALL TIME!
I, CHOKO TATEOKA, WILL TAKE THE THRONE AS THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL!

*WHKK
*SHFF
CHOK
*FX
*FX URGH
*GYAAA'

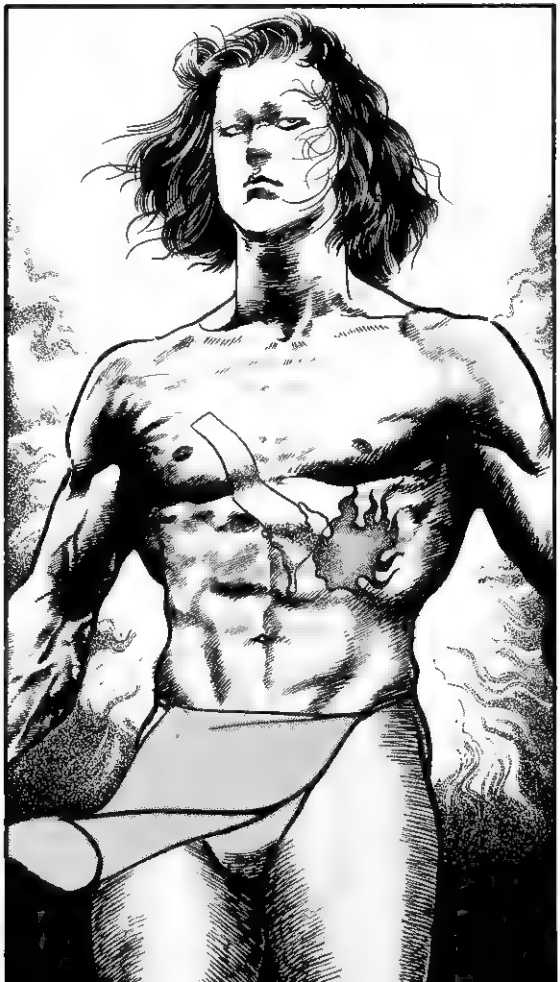
わ

I-IT'S NOT POS-SIBLE!
...AND TO TAKE IT ON THE OUTSIDE OF MY BENT LEG, WHERE THE DAMAGE WOULD BE MINIMAL.
I ONLY HAD ONE CHOICE LEFT TO ME-- TO WAIT FOR YOU TO THROW YOUR WEAPON AT ME...
THERE'S NO FASTER REMEDY FOR IT.
THE ACUTE PAIN WOULD ALLEVIATE THE PARALYSIS FOR JUST A MOMENT.
*FX. SHFF
HRR ...

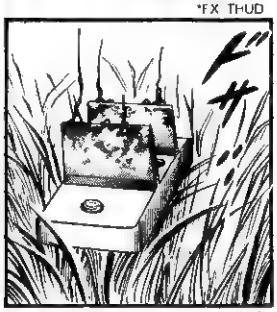
*FX CHUK

*FX WHKK

*FX FSSS



*FX THUD



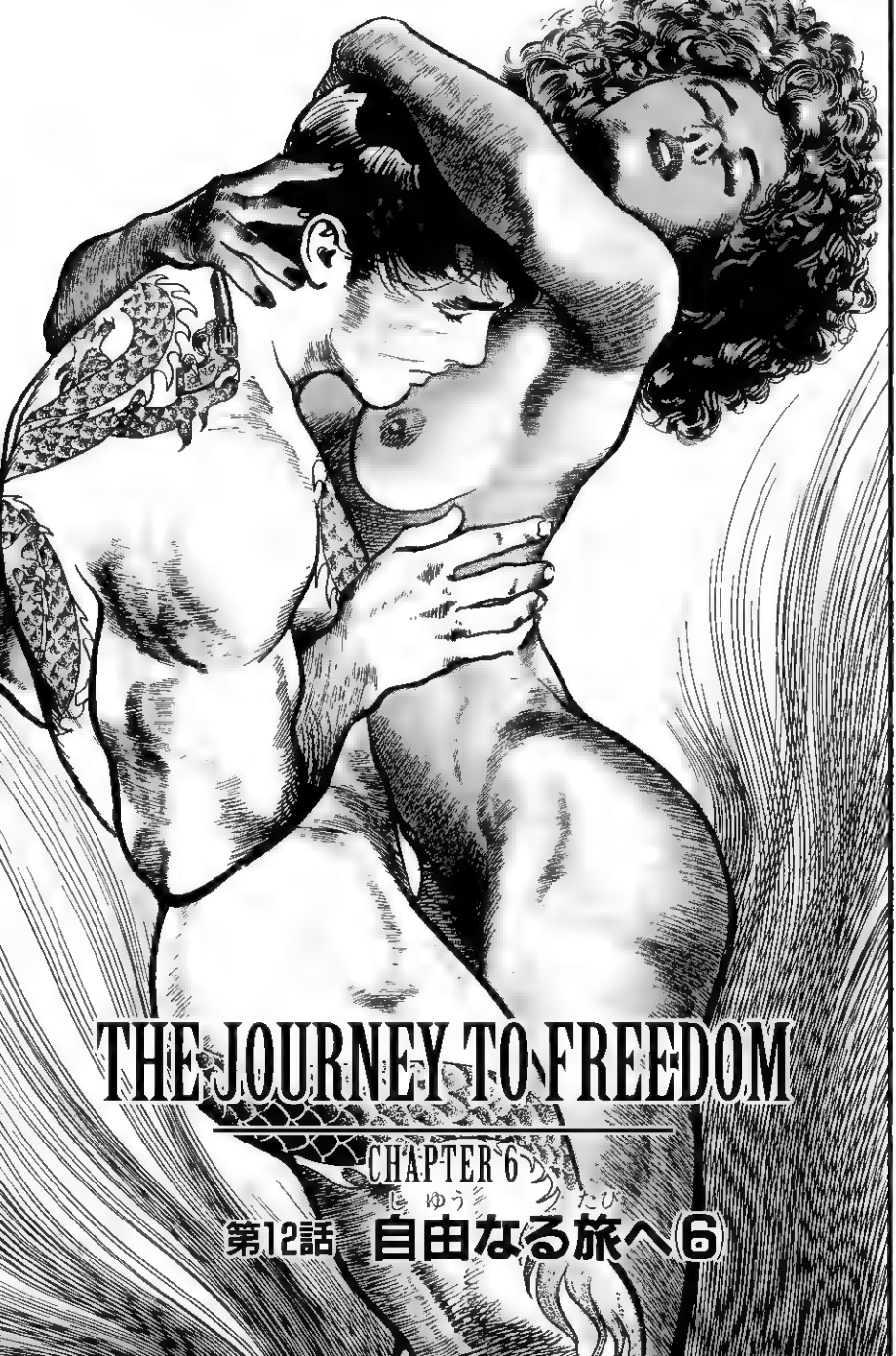
*FX FWUP

*FX THD

FX YEAAGH
*FX SHJKK

YOU... WILL NEVER... GET THE ANTIDOTE NOW!
WHA--?!
IT'S IN THE STRAP OF YOUR SANDAL, ISN'T IT?
*FX NOOOO
I KNEW YOU MUST HAVE HAD IT ON YOUR PERSON AT ALL TIMES, AND THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE YOU COULD HAVE BEEN HIDING IT.
北川医院

*FX SMILE



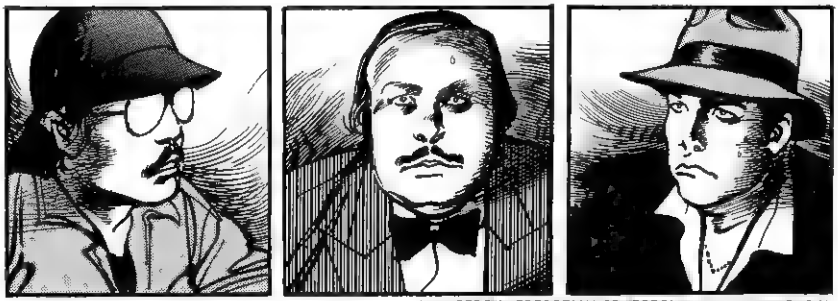
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

CHAPTER 6

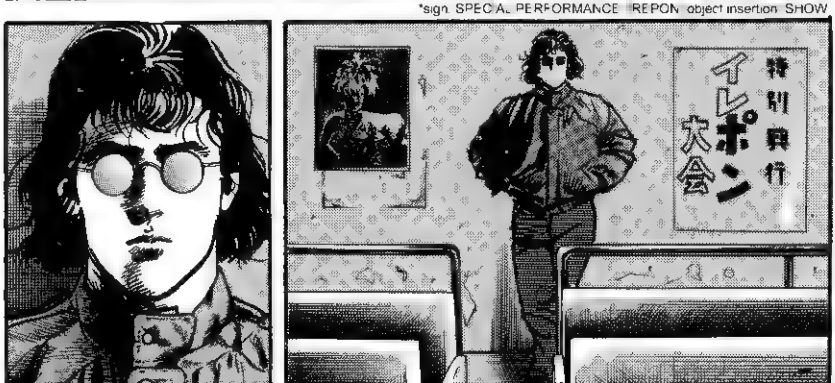
第12話　自由なる旅へ⑥

*FX AHA

*FX: ZATHOOM ZATHOOMTHOOM



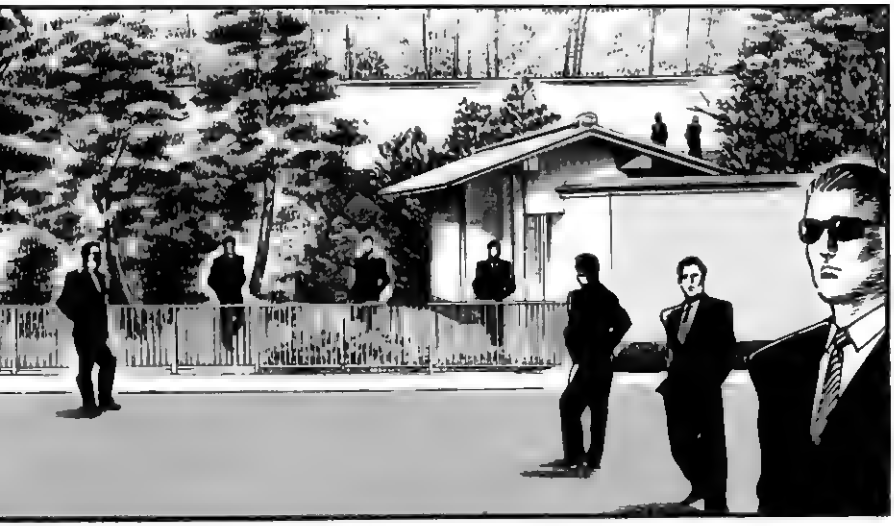
*sign: SPECIAL PERFORMANCE "REPON" object insertion SHOW



*FX AHH
*FX NKK
I'LL SHAKE ON THAT.
UHH... FINE. I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED G'S, BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN DO!
FOR TWO PERFORMANCES IN THE AFTERNOON AND FOUR IN THE EVENING?
W-WE'LL TAKE HER! SAY... TWO HUNDRED GRAND A DAY?
*FX GRN
LOVE, HUH ...?
SHE HAS SIMPLER TASTES. SHE NEEDS TO MAKE EMOTIONAL CONTACT. SHE WANTS LOVE.
IS SHE JUST AS HOT IN THE SACK?
BUT, MAN, THAT IS ONE INCREDIBLE DAME YOU'VE PULLED THERE!

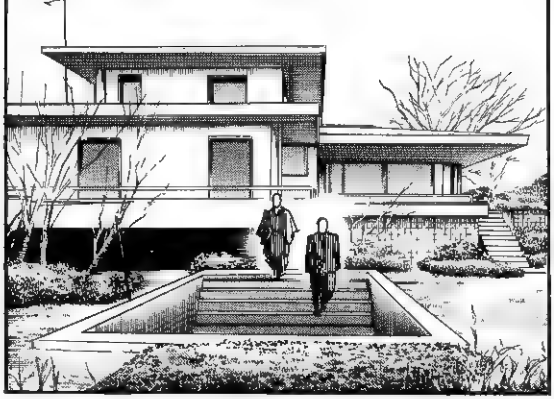
AAAHH!
AAAHHH!!
I'M COMING!
AAAAH!! I'M
COMING!!
"FX AAH"

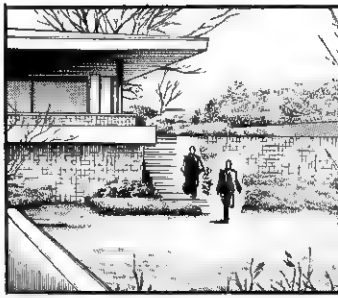
*sign. WADASHIMA

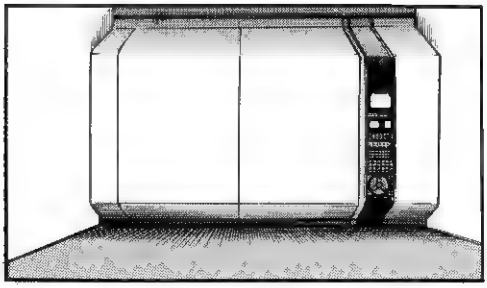


FX. BAM

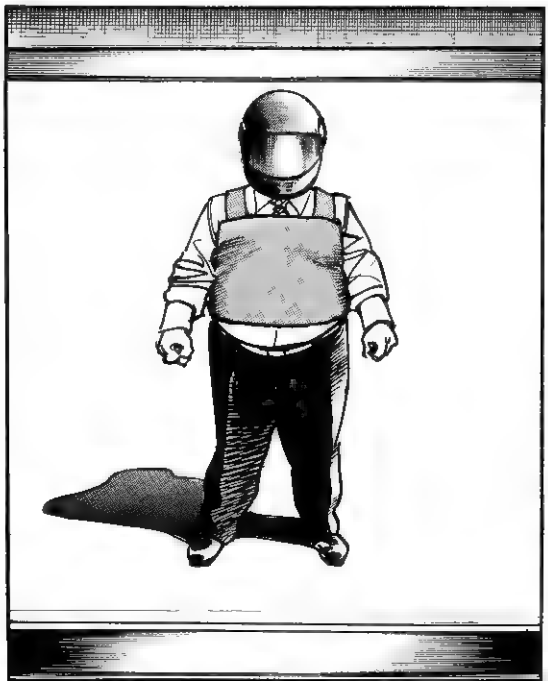
*FX SKREE

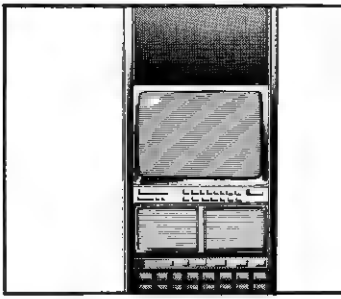




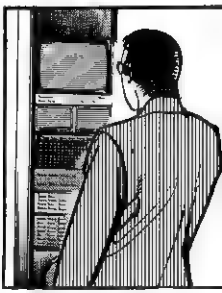


NO, SIR.
HAS THE CHAIRMAN NOT COME OUT OF THE SHELTER AT ALL SINCE HE WENT IN?





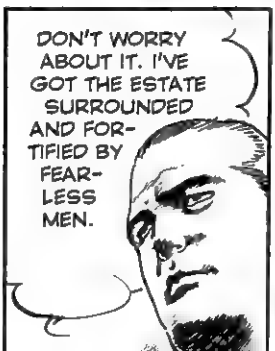
*FX BEEP BEEP



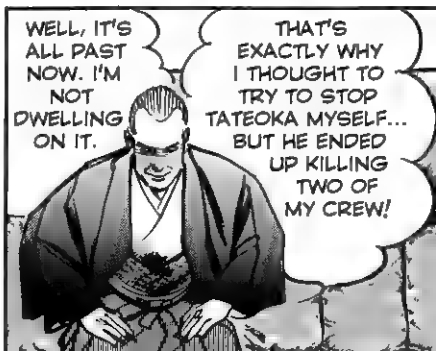
YOU! YOU HAVEN'T COME HERE TO KILL ME, HAVE YA?
HMM... OKAY. COME ON IN.
YES, SIR.
HAVE YOU SEARCHED HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S AB-SURD!
*FX THOOM
THE DOOR'S SET SO IT CAN ONLY BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE. NOT EVEN A ROCKET LAUNCHER COULD BREAK THROUGH IT!

IT SHOULD BE! IT COST ME SIX HUNDRED MILLION!
MY... THIS IS INCREDIBLE! IT'S MAG-NIFICENT!
I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE SHELTER IN HERE IF THERE WERE EVER A NUCLEAR WAR. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE USING IT TO HIDE FROM AN ASSASSIN!

I SHOULDA LISTENED TO YOUR ADVICE. I WISH I'D NEVER TRIED TO FUCK WITH THE GUY.
MY MAN TATEOKA'S BEEN KILLED. WORSE--KILLED EASILY AND WITH HIS OWN WEAPONS! THIS GUY SCARES THE SHIT OUTTA ME!


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'VE GOT THE ESTATE SURROUNDED AND FORTIFIED BY FEARLESS MEN.

YEAH. I PAID CONDOLENCE MONEY... ANYWAY, IS HE REALLY GONNA COME AFTER ME?

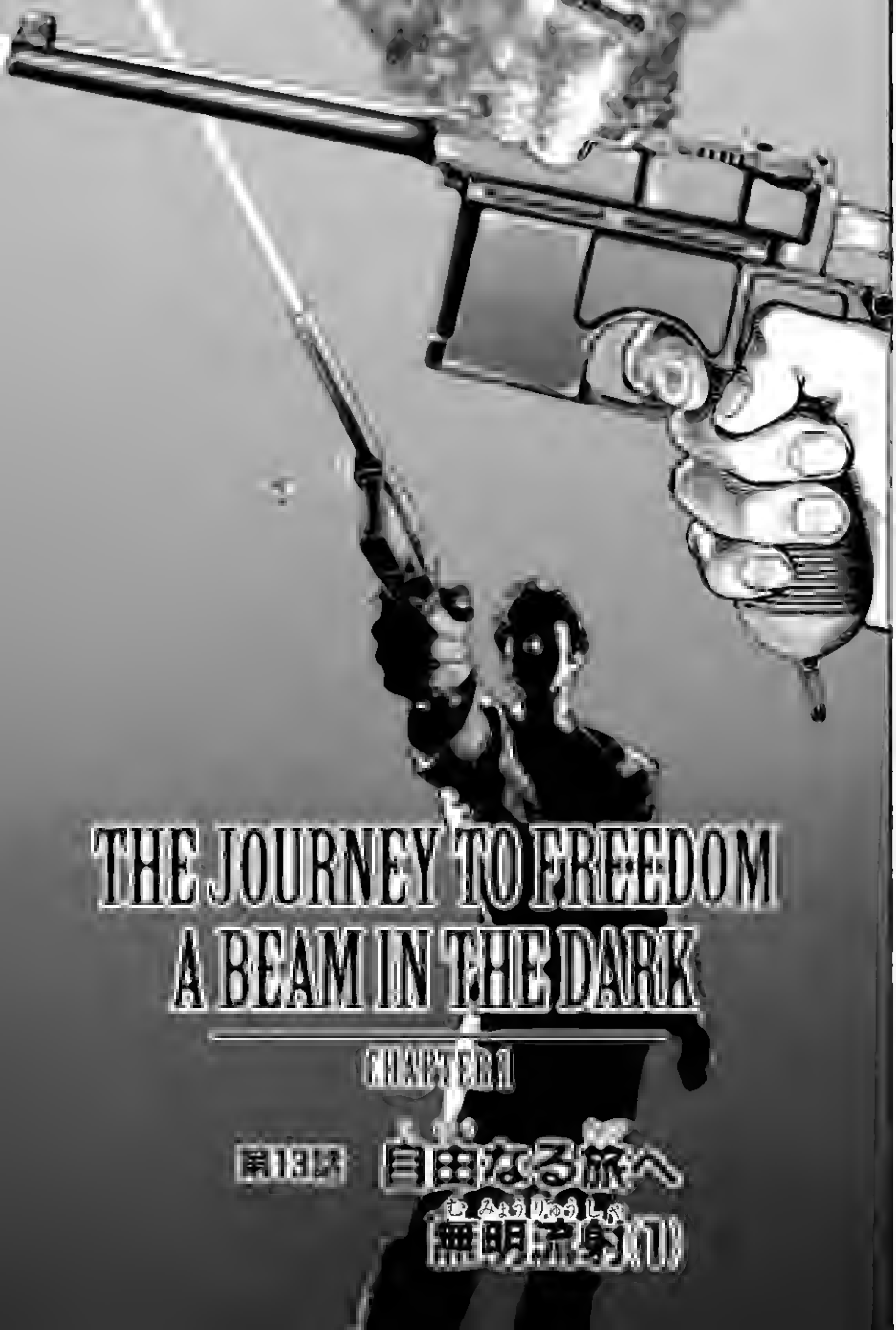

WELL, IT'S ALL PAST NOW. I'M NOT DWELLING ON IT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I THOUGHT TO TRY TO STOP TATEOKA MYSELF... BUT HE ENDED UP KILLING TWO OF MY CREW!

YOU MUST BE BORED, RIGHT?
SAY WHAT?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A STRIP-TEASE?
SH-SHE'S INCREDI-BLE!
*FX GLH
THE BOYS IN MY ENTERTAIN-MENT UNIT SCOUTED HER. THEY DID HER BLOOD TEST, TOO...
*FX GRN
AH HAHH...
AND WE'LL HAVE THE PLACE GUARDED SO TIGHT THAT NOT EVEN AN ANT WOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN OR OUT.
WE'LL CLOSE UP THE CLUB SO YOU CAN WATCH THE SHOW ALL BY YOURSELF, CHAIRMAN.
ニヤリ

外人ショー
YEAH!!
OOH''
AAH''

*SPURTCH

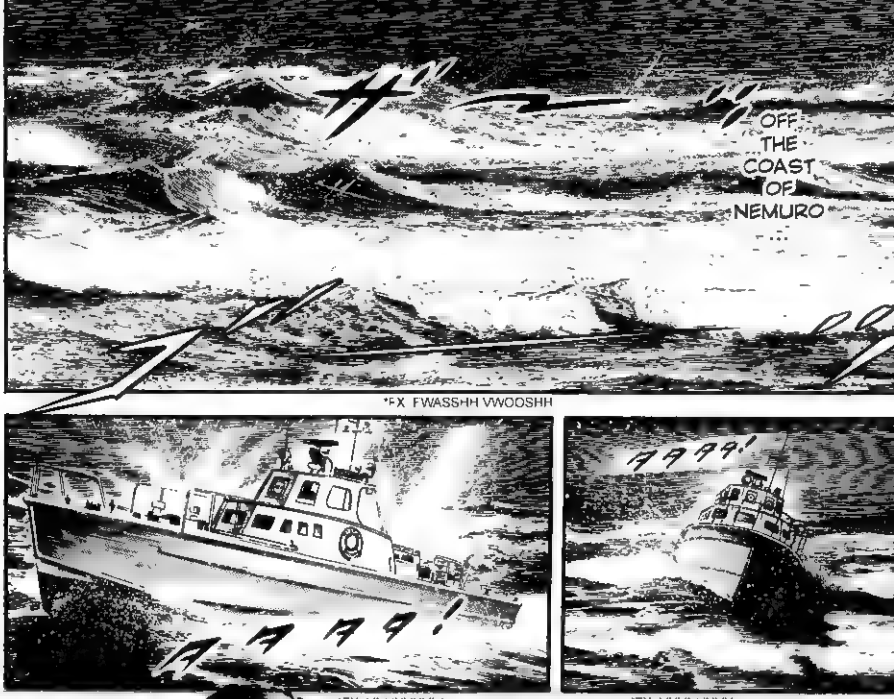
*sign COMING SOON LESBIAN SHOW NAOKO KONNO VS SHERRY ANNETTE IREPON SHOW PART 2

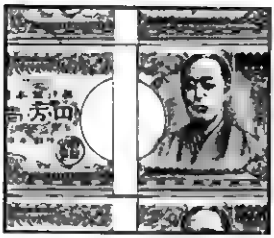


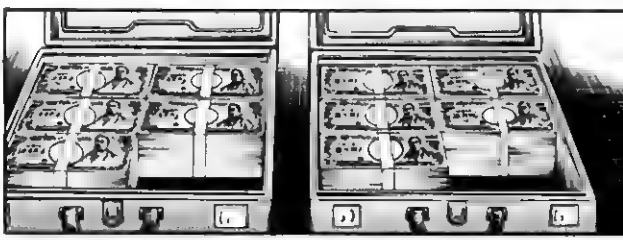
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 1

第13話 自由なる旅へ
無明ノ身(1)


OFF THE COAST OF NEMURO
*FX FWASSHH VWOOSHH
AAAA!
AAAA!
*FX VNVNVNVN
*FX VNVNVNVN





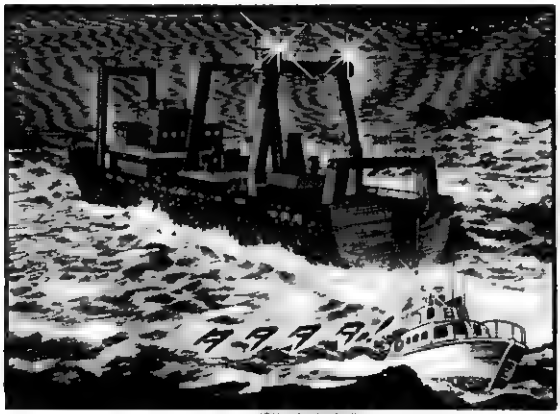
*FX GRIN

THAT IS CORRECT.
I KNOW. FREEMAN IS COMING AFTER ME.
MISTER TSU-NAIKE, WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION.
LET US HELP YOU.
WELL, IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, WE WOULD BE MUCH TROUBLED TO LOSE SUCH A VALUABLE CLIENT.
FORGET ABOUT IT! THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON, AFTER ALL-- IF I WAS AFRAID OF ONE, HOW COULD I SURVIVE? HAHAHA-HAHAHA-HAHA!
THIS IS KYU-TCHE.

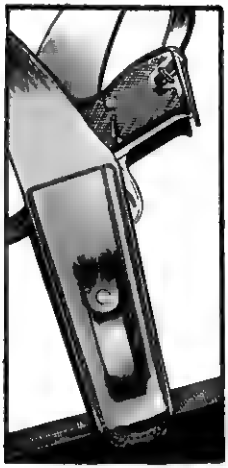
TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!!
SHE'S AN ESKIMO. AN EXCELLENT ARM AND AN EXCELLENT BODY. ONE OF A KIND.
KILL THE LIGHTS!!
THERE ARE LUMINOUS BODIES INSIDE. WHEN THE GLOBES ARE HIT, THEY WILL LIGHT UP.

READY!
*FX. WHNNNN
*FX. SHFF

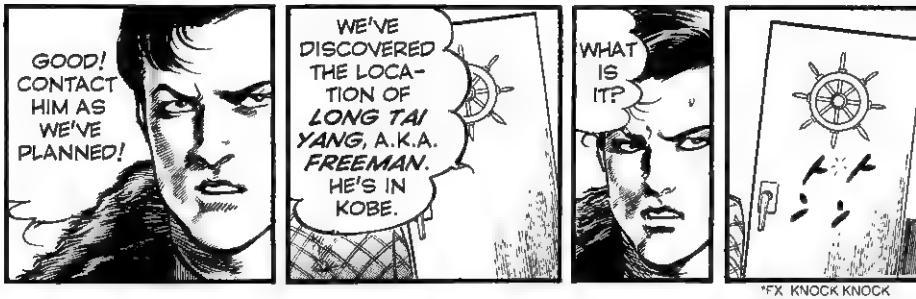
READY



*FX: vNvNvNvN



*FX YRRK
UHNN...
ギュッ


GOOD! CONTACT HIM AS WE'VE PLANNED!
WE'VE DISCOVERED THE LOCATION OF *LONG TAI YANG*, A.K.A. *FREEMAN*. HE'S IN KOBE.
WHAT IS IT?
*FX KNOCK KNOCK

I UNDERSTAND, SIR!
LISTEN TO ME! I WANT THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION IN ON THIS! ALL AT ONCE! SELL HIM THE ITEM AS PLANNED! AND DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!
YES, SIR!

*FX THUD

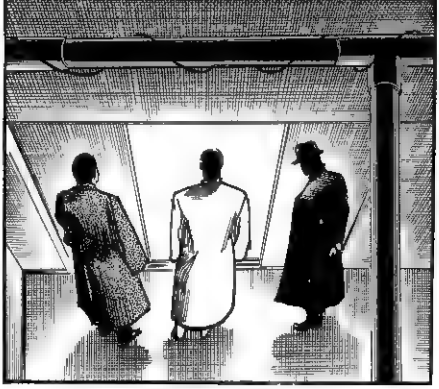
SHIT !!

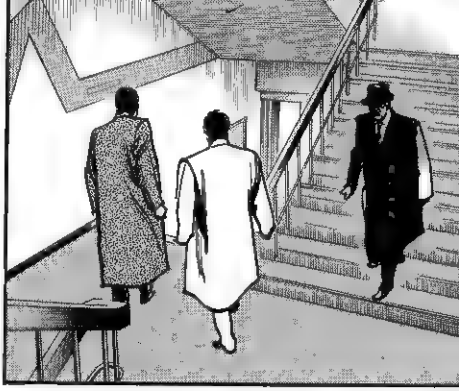
THE 108 DRAGONS ARE NOTHING! WE ARE JAPAN'S KANTO BROTHER-HOOD SOCIETY!!
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
YOU THINK I'D JUST LET HIM CRUSH THE NEMURO CONNECTION AFTER ALL I DID TO BUILD IT?!
HRRRGH!!

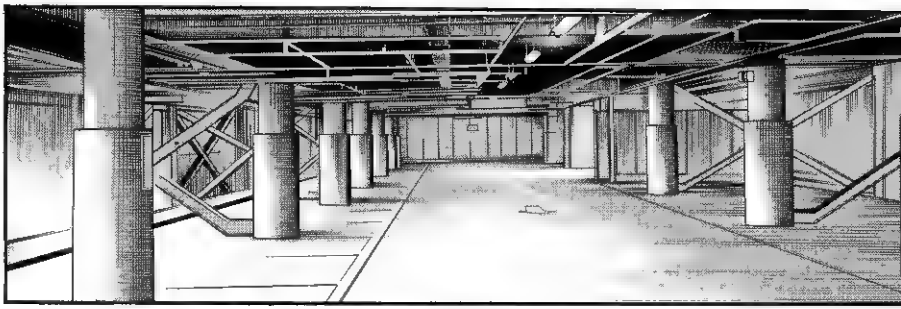
*sign BAR SMOKEY

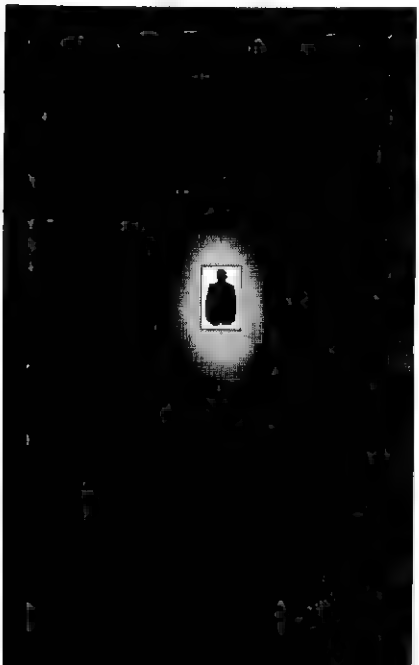
*top sign HIGASHIMON STREET

I BELIEVE MASTER KEISHOU RYU TOLD YOU ABOUT ME. MY NAME IS KAMANISHI. I WORK FOR KOA! TRADING. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS A LIST OF ALL THOSE TRANS-ACTIONS AND AMOUNTS.
WE HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE 108 DRAGONS FOR THE PAST TWENTY-SIX YEARS.
THE CURRENT PRESIDENT, AIDO, AND THE FORMER PRESIDENT-- THE ELDER AIDO-- ARE LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCES OF FATHER DRAGON.
LET US SHOW YOU.
SO, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SELL ME?









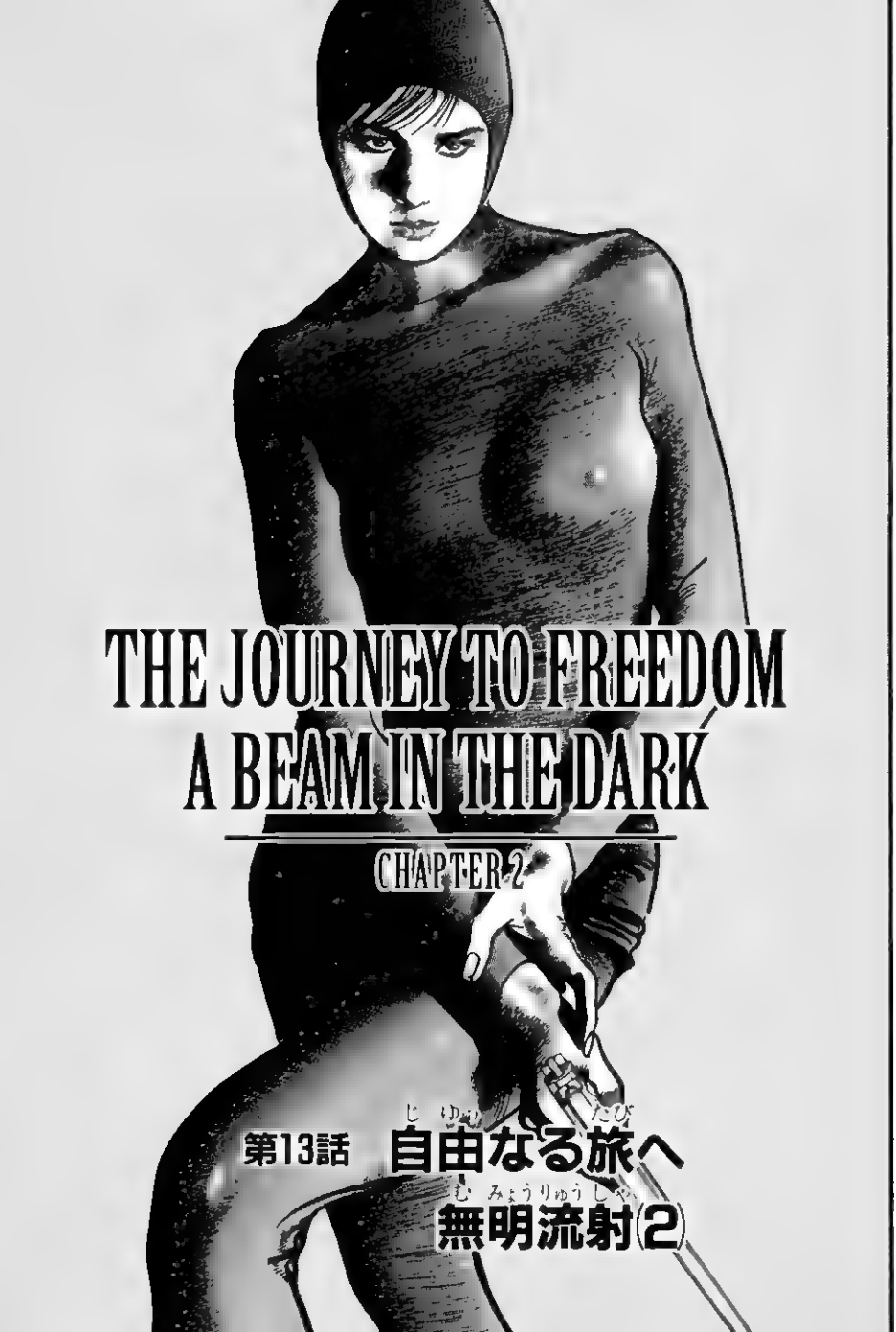
*FX CLICK

WE'LL TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

NOW WE'LL SET UP A TARGET.

PLEASE DO AWAY AND SHOOT IT

WHAT DO YOU THINK? A HUNDRED SETS AT TWO MILLION EACH?
THAT SOUNDS FINE.
YOU'LL FIND IT MOST USEFUL WHEN FIGHTING IN THE DARK.
THE GUN IS FITTED WITH A LIGHT SOURCE WE CALL IT "THE FIREFLY." AND IT CAN BE ATTACHED TO ANY GUN. IT'S EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN AN INFRARED SCOPE.



THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 2

第13話　自由なる旅へ
無明流射(2)

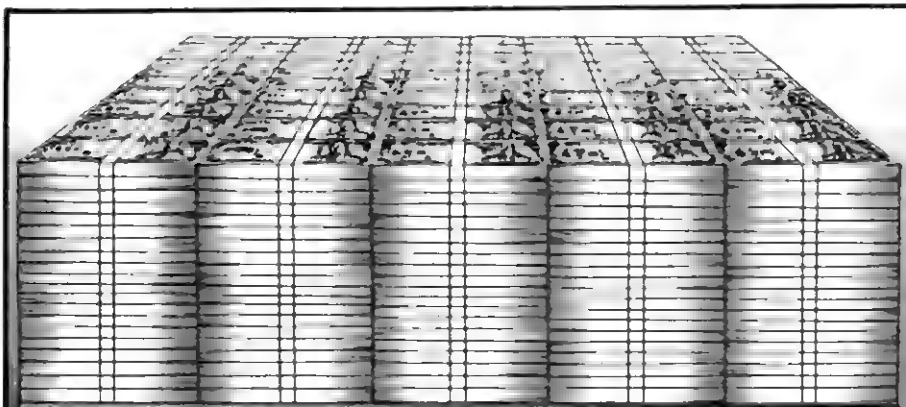
28

AAH!
AAAEE!
AAAEE!
AAAAH!!

PLUS, HE'LL BE CARRYING A FIREFLY-EQUIPPED GUN. IT'LL GIVE HIM THE ADDITIONAL CONFIDENCE TO THINK HE CAN'T BE BEATEN EVEN IF HE ENDS UP IN A SHOOTOUT IN THE DARK... UHNN...
WE'LL LURE LONG TAI YANG INTO SOMEPLACE DARK HE'S SO FULL OF CONFIDENCE, HE WON'T EVEN FLINCH TO GO IN ANYWAY!
BUT THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL KNOW THAT YOU'RE COVERING FOR ME, AND YOU CAN SEE WELL IN THE DARK!
AAH! AAH! AAAEE!

WHEN HE TAKES YOU ON, HIS FIREFLY WON'T LIGHT!
THE FIREFLY WILL EXTINGUISH ITSELF AFTER TEN MINUTES! AIDO'S THUGS WILL GIVE LONG TAI YANG THE FIREFLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE THEY LURE HIM INTO THE TRAP!
YOU'LL BEAT HIM! IT'LL HARDLY BE ANY CONTEST AT ALL!
UHH .. UH!
AHAHA-HAHAHA! URRR!!
KILLING IS AN INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE! THE AGE OF PHYSICAL TECHNIQUE IS OVER!

Sign: AIDO GRAND RESTAURANT

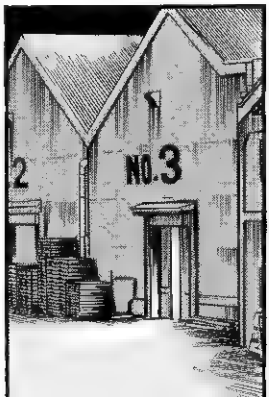


ONE BILLION. THERE IT IS.
*FX GRIN
WE'LL MAKE SURE FREEMAN HAS THE TIP AND THE FIREFLY EXACTLY TEN MINUTES IN ADVANCE!

NO 4

Nº 4
Nº 5

AS SOON AS YOU GO IN, WE'LL CUT THE POWER. THE WAREHOUSE'LL GO PITCH BLACK.


NO.3

TSUNAIKE'S INSIDE WAREHOUSE NUMBER THREE.
WE BELIEVE HE'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEAL.

THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO TRY OUT THE FIREFLY!

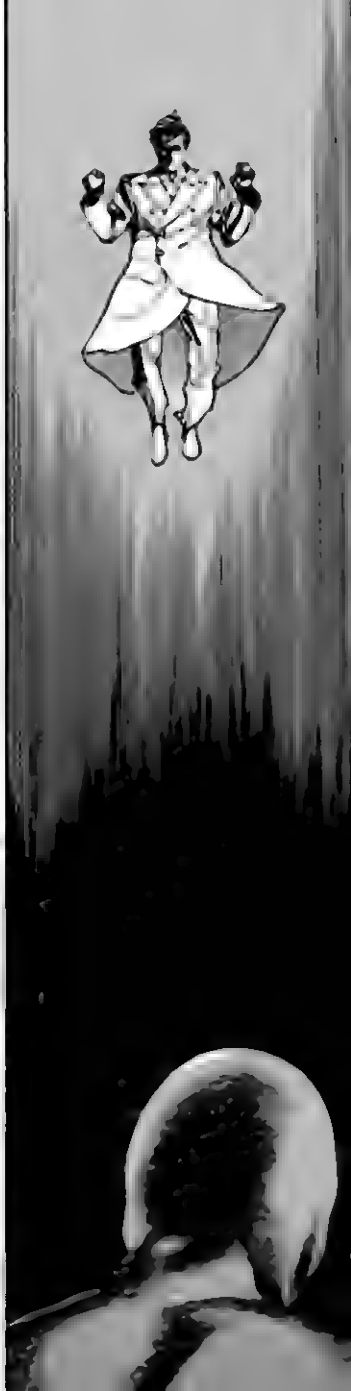
THE AIDO COMPANY LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED PATRON-AGE
IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAD 'EM READY RIGHT WHEN WE DID!

*FX: GRIN

*FX SHFF

KOMADA

*FX THWIP

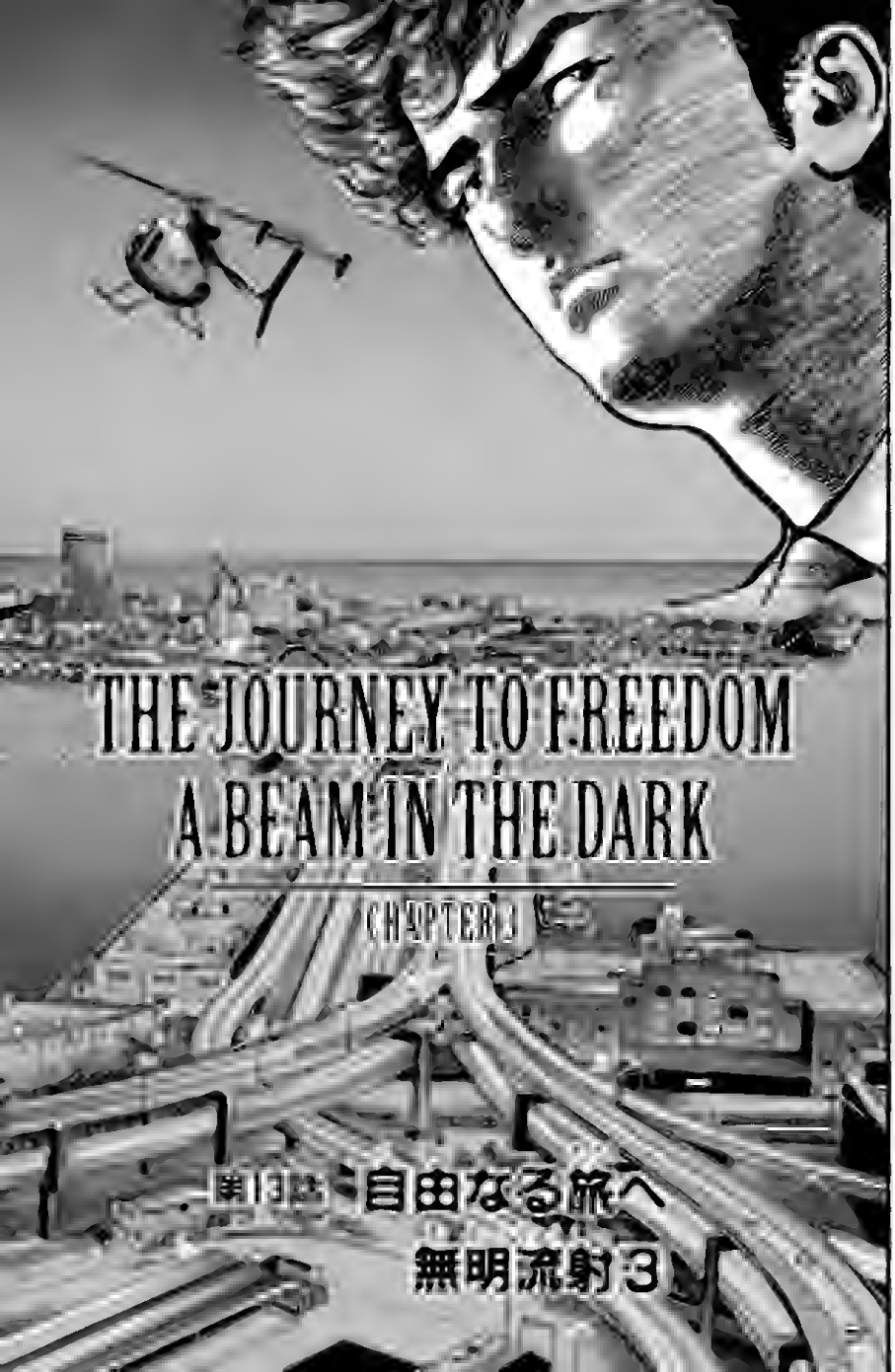


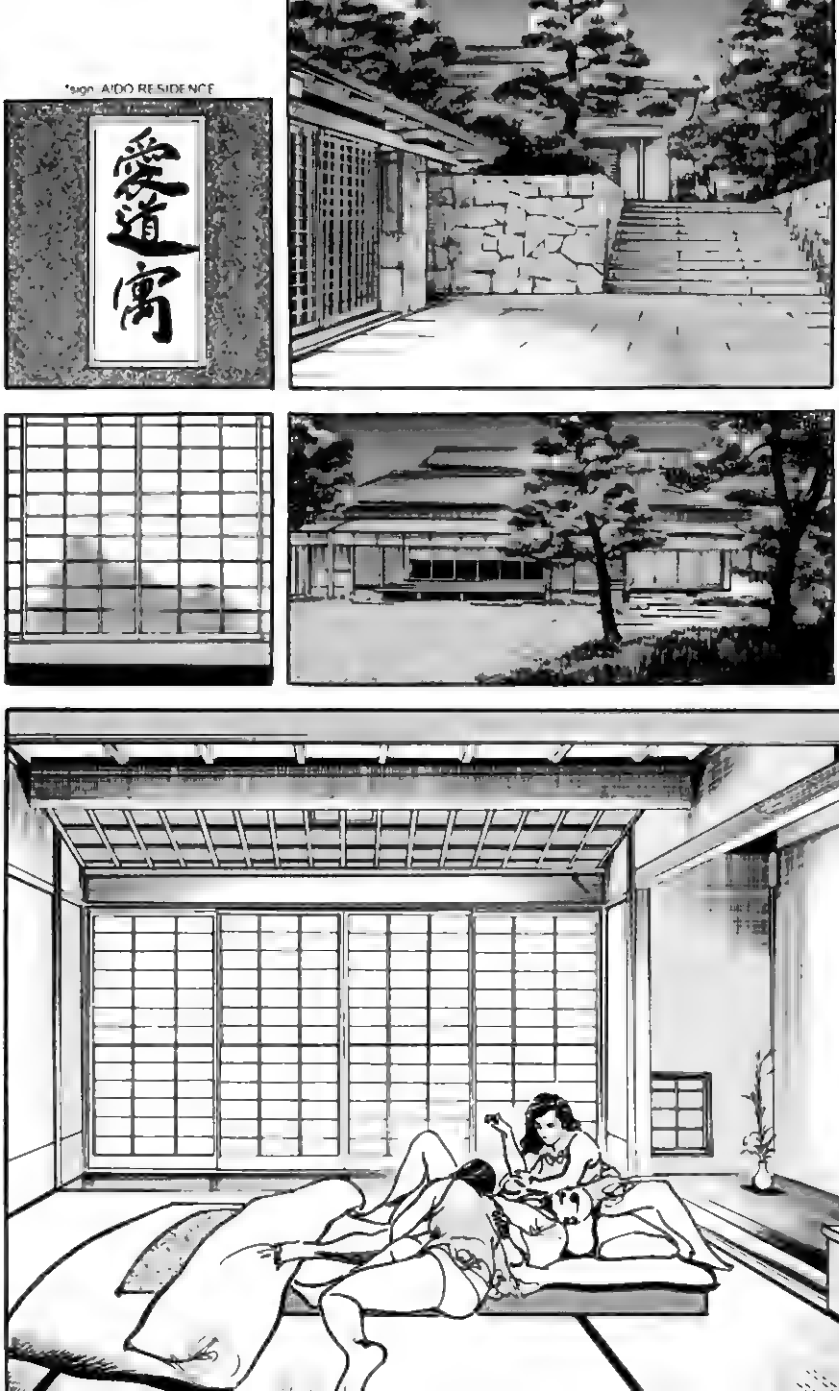
HOW ...?
*FX THUD
IT SEEMS YOU CAN SEE WELL IN THE DARK, BUT SO CAN // THE DARK DOESN'T AFFECT ME AT ALL!

WAS THE WOMAN SO FAST HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE TO USE IT...?
BUT FREEMAN... HE KILLED HER TOO...

*FX: DRIP

COULDN'T THE AIDOS EVEN REMOTELY IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITY THAT I TOO CAN SEE WELL IN THE DARK?!
SHOULD I HAVE KNOWN THEY'D BETRAY ME, SINCE THEY SO UNDER-ESTIMATED ME?
*FX THUKK
*FX THUKK


THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK
CHAPTER 1
第1話 自由なる旅へ
無明流射3


*sign AIDO RESIDENCE
愛道寓

*FX. HUH?!
*FX. SLLP SLLP
THERE'S A CALL VIA HEAD-QUARTERS.
WHAT IS IT?
HONOR-ABLE SIR!
NO, SIR. IT'S A MAN WHO CALLS HIM-SELF RYU... HE SAID YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND IF WE TOLD YOU...
I SEE. IT'S KAMA-NISHI, I SUP-POSE?
WH-WHAT?! RYU -- "DRAGON"?!

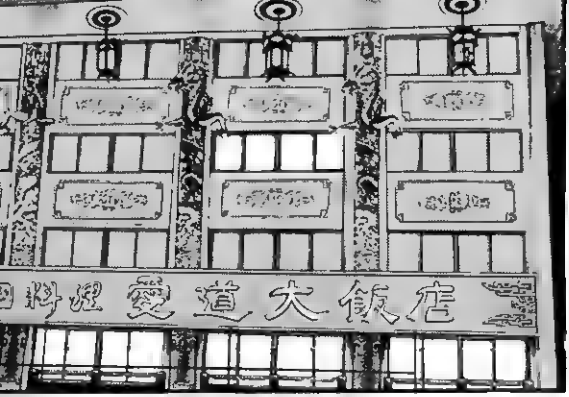
*FX HAAH HAAH
*FX HRRAKK
*FX CHAK!
Y-YOU TWO, GET OUT! NOW!

I-IT'S ME...
*FX: KAHH KAHH KAHH KAHH
クラブ
胡蝶
*sign: CLUB KOCHO

*FX OOH!
*FX FFHHH
*FX TEE HEEHEE!
*FX BWAH HAHA!
*FX BWAH HAHAHA
NOT THAT THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE THEY MESSED UP!
HM! GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!
WE SHOULD HAVE HEARD SOMETHING BY NOW...
*FX GRIN
A-HA! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
MR. AIDO, THERE'S A PHONE CALL FOR YOU.
S-SAY WHAT !?!
YEAH, IT'S ME. WHAT? OH, IT'S YOU, FATHER. YOU HEAR FROM KAMANISHI?

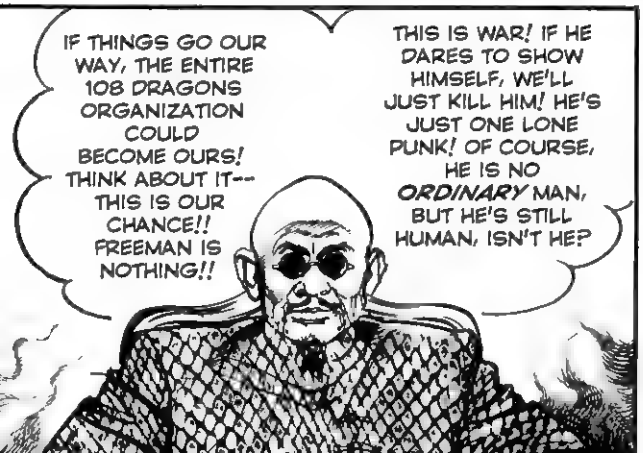
*FX HMPH! HMPH
ぶっ ぶっ
Y-YOU LOT, GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
U-UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE! SEE YOU AT HEAD-QUARTERS.
*FX HMPH
S-SEEMS MY FATHER GOT A CALL FROM FREEMAN HIMSELF!
SO THEY SCREWED UP, HUH?
HE SAID... HE'D CALL US AGAIN IN AN HOUR AT HEAD-QUARTERS AND THAT MY FATHER AND I SHOULD BOTH BE THERE.
SO, WHAT'D HE SAY?
*FX FZZZ
YEAH, SURE THING, BUT... ARE YOU GONNA RUN AND JUST LEAVE US...?
TWELVE O'CLOCK... AIDO, LEND ME A CAR. I'M GOING STRAIGHT BACK TO TOKYO.

YOU WATCH YOUR FUCKING MOUTH! DON'T FORGET THAT THE ONE BILLION YEN I GAVE YOU WAS TO KILL FREEMAN! OR WOULD YOU PREFER I JUST TOOK IT BACK?
*FX SPLISHH
S-SURE THING...
THEN KILL FREEMAN! JUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!! IF YOU SUCCEED, I'LL EVEN CUT YOU IN ON A PIECE OF THE NEMURO CONNECTION!!
I-I UNDERSTAND! WE NEED THAT MONEY TO PULL OFF THE BUSINESS EXPANSION WE'RE PLANNING! WE'RE UP SHIT CREEK WITHOUT IT!
MAYBE SIX HOURS AND A BIT...
HOW LONG TO TOKYO?
BUT... HE KILLED KYUTCHE... CAN FREEMAN REALLY BE THAT INCREDIBLE?
HMM... CAN'T BE HELPED, I GUESS.



*sig A DO GRAND RESTAURANT

*FX HMPH HMPH


IF THINGS GO OUR WAY, THE ENTIRE 108 DRAGONS ORGANIZATION COULD BECOME OURS! THINK ABOUT IT-- THIS IS OUR CHANCE!! FREEMAN IS NOTHING!!
THIS IS WAR! IF HE DARES TO SHOW HIMSELF, WE'LL JUST KILL HIM! HE'S JUST ONE LONE PUNK! OF COURSE, HE IS NO ORDINARY MAN, BUT HE'S STILL HUMAN, ISN'T HE?

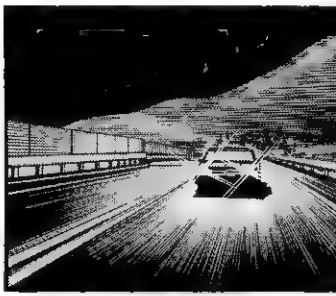
WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING AROUND?! HURRY! ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS!!
YES, I SEE NOW! LET'S KILL HIM, FATHER!!
*FX GULP
*FX WHA--?
*FX BRRIINNG
*FX CHIK
*FX CHIK
THIS'S AIDO. THAT FREE-MAN?
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW THAT BETRAYING THE TRUST OF FATHER DRAGON AND THE 108 DRAGONS IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE.

*FX ULP
IS THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS TSUNAIKE OF THE KANTO BROTHER-HOOD?
HURRY UP AND TELL US YOUR DEMANDS!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?! MONEY?!
LET'S GO.
AYE AYE, SIR!
I THOUGHT AS MUCH. I'M COM-ING TO SEE YOU. I WANT TO TALK FACE-TO-FACE.
*FX BUDDABUDDABUDDABJDDA

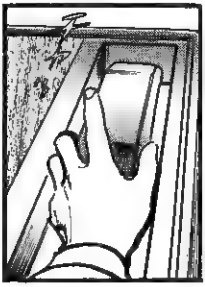
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD A *REAL* WAR!
HO HO HO! IT'S A WAR!

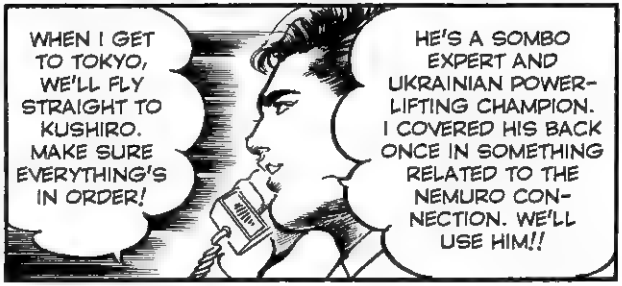
H-HE'S COMING!! SECURE THE BUILDING! SEAL OFF ALL THE ROADS IN AND OUT! *DON'T EVEN LET AN ANT GET THROUGH!!*

THERE SHOULD BE A BIG MAN THERE NAMED *ROMANOV*. GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM. HE TAKES CARE OF ANIMALS. *MM...*
I SEE. SO THE CIRCUS IS IN KUSHIRO RIGHT NOW? EXCELLENT!



*FX CHIK




WHEN I GET TO TOKYO, WE'LL FLY STRAIGHT TO KUSHIRO. MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER!
HE'S A SOMBO EXPERT AND UKRAINIAN POWER-LIFTING CHAMPION. I COVERED HIS BACK ONCE IN SOMETHING RELATED TO THE NEMURO CONNECTION. WE'LL USE HIM!!

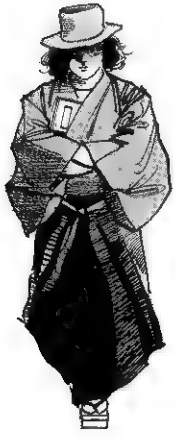
THE AIDO FAMILY WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A MAN WHO KILLED KYUTCHE SO EASILY...
BUT ROMANOV, WELL... HE'S A TRUE HOMICIDAL MANIAC... HEH HEH HEH!

TELL 'EM WE'LL TALK TO 'EM IN THE MORNING, AND THAT THEY OUGHTA JUST LET IT GO FOR TONIGHT!
BOSS, THE COPS ARE MAKIN' ALL KINDSA NOISE...
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
WHAT IS IT?
HM? DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING?
WH-WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

AIEEEE!!
WHA--?!

*FX KKRSH KKRSH
AIEE !!
AAAH !!

SORRY I DIDN'T COME THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. PLEASE EXCUSE THE DISCOURTESY.
*SMILE



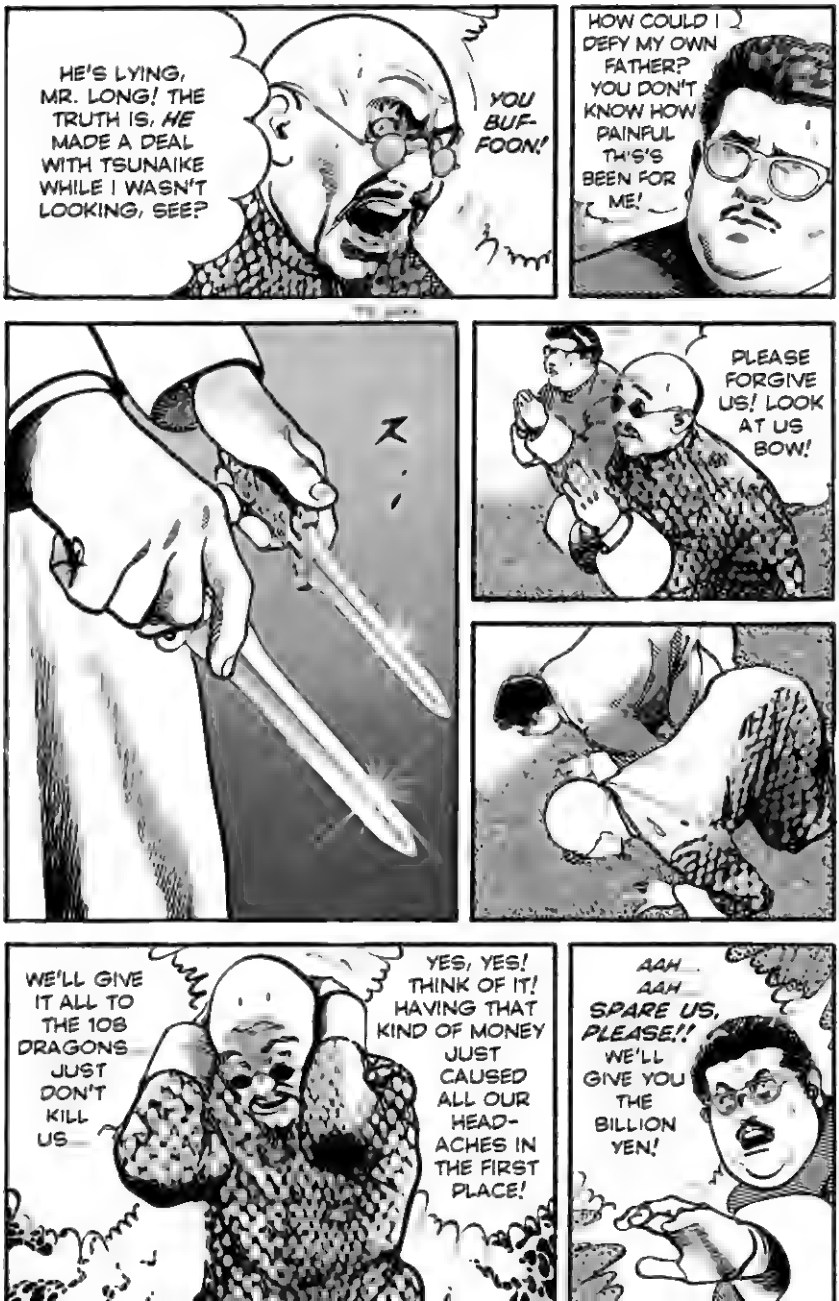
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

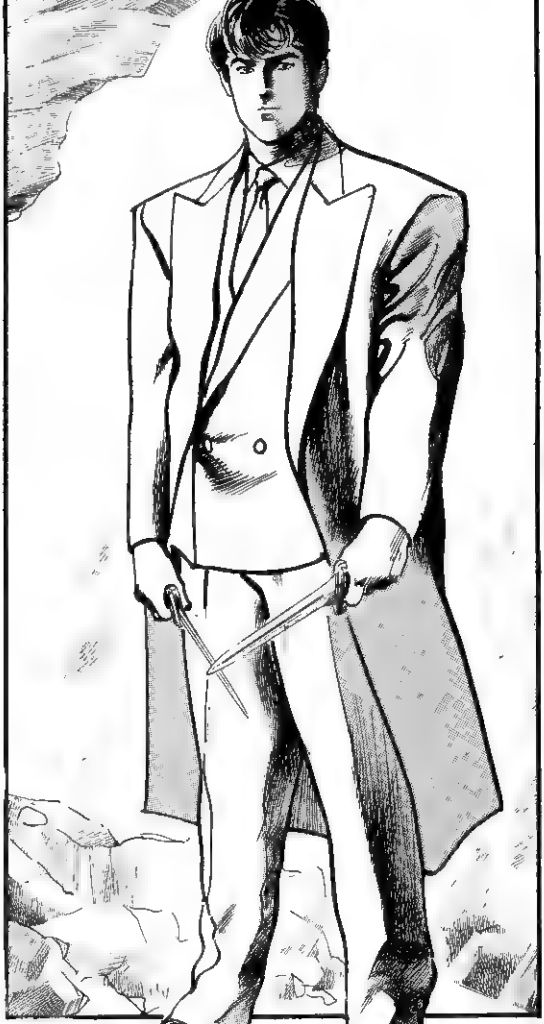
CHAPTER 4

第13話　自由なる旅へ

無明流射(4)

FX AAH
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PRACTICALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH TSUNAIKE AT FIRST SIGHT WHEN HE OFFERED US ONE BILLION TO HELP HIM!
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE LYING, YOU WORM!!
WE'VE HAD SUCH A LONG ASSOCIATION, AND WE OWE YOU SO MUCH...
I-IT WASN'T ME!! I WAS TOTALLY AGAINST DOUBLE-CROSSING THE 108 DRAGONS!!
I-IT WAS MY FATHER!! HE WAS TOTALLY BLINDED BY THE DOUGH, SEE?

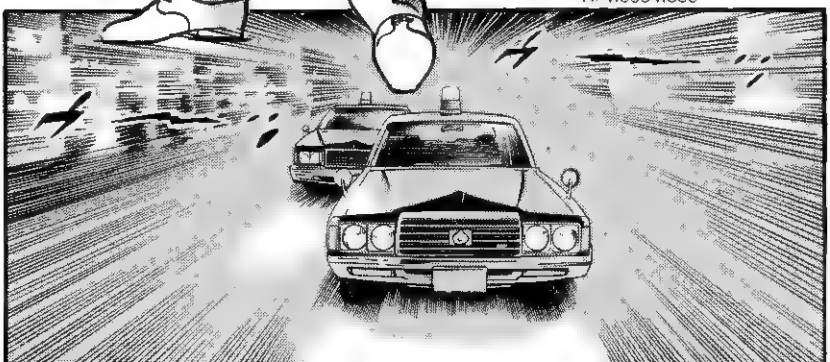

HE'S LYING, MR. LONG! THE TRUTH IS, HE MADE A DEAL WITH TSUNAIKE WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING, SEE?
YOU BUF-FOON!
HOW COULD I DEFY MY OWN FATHER? YOU DON'T KNOW HOW PAINFUL TH'S'S BEEN FOR ME!
PLEASE FORGIVE US! LOOK AT US BOW!
WE'LL GIVE IT ALL TO THE 108 DRAGONS... JUST DON'T KILL US...
YES, YES! THINK OF IT! HAVING THAT KIND OF MONEY JUST CAUSED ALL OUR HEAD-ACHES IN THE FIRST PLACE!
AAH... AAH... SPARE US, PLEASE!! WE'LL GIVE YOU THE BILLION YEN!



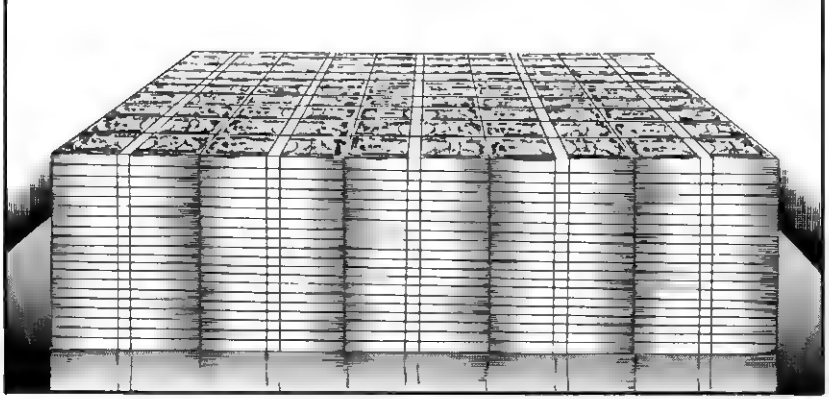
W-WE SWEAR... NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY ANY-BODY OFFERS US EVER AGAIN, WE WON'T EVEN LIFT AN EYE-BROW !!

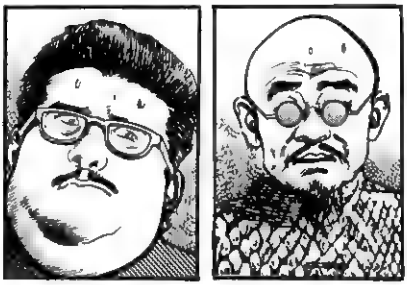
EVEN IF THEY OFFERED *TWO* BILLION... *TEN* BILLION... WE'D NEVER BETRAY THE 108 DRAG-ONS!!

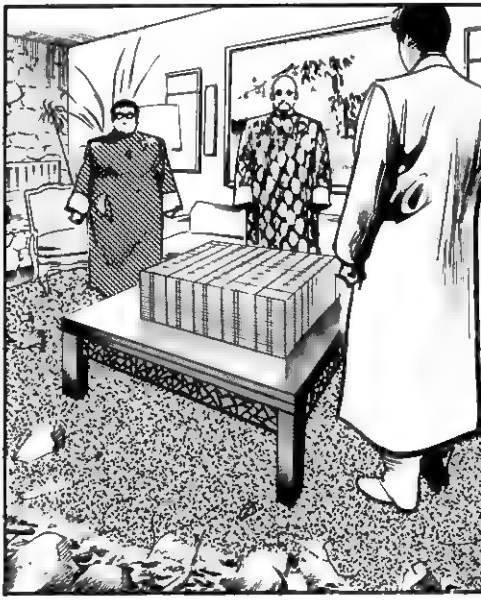
*FX WOOO WOOO



*FX SLISHH SLISHH
ヒ''ラ
ヒ''ラ
*FX SKREEECH
SEAL OFF THIS ROAD!
NOBODY LIGHT ANY MATCHES!





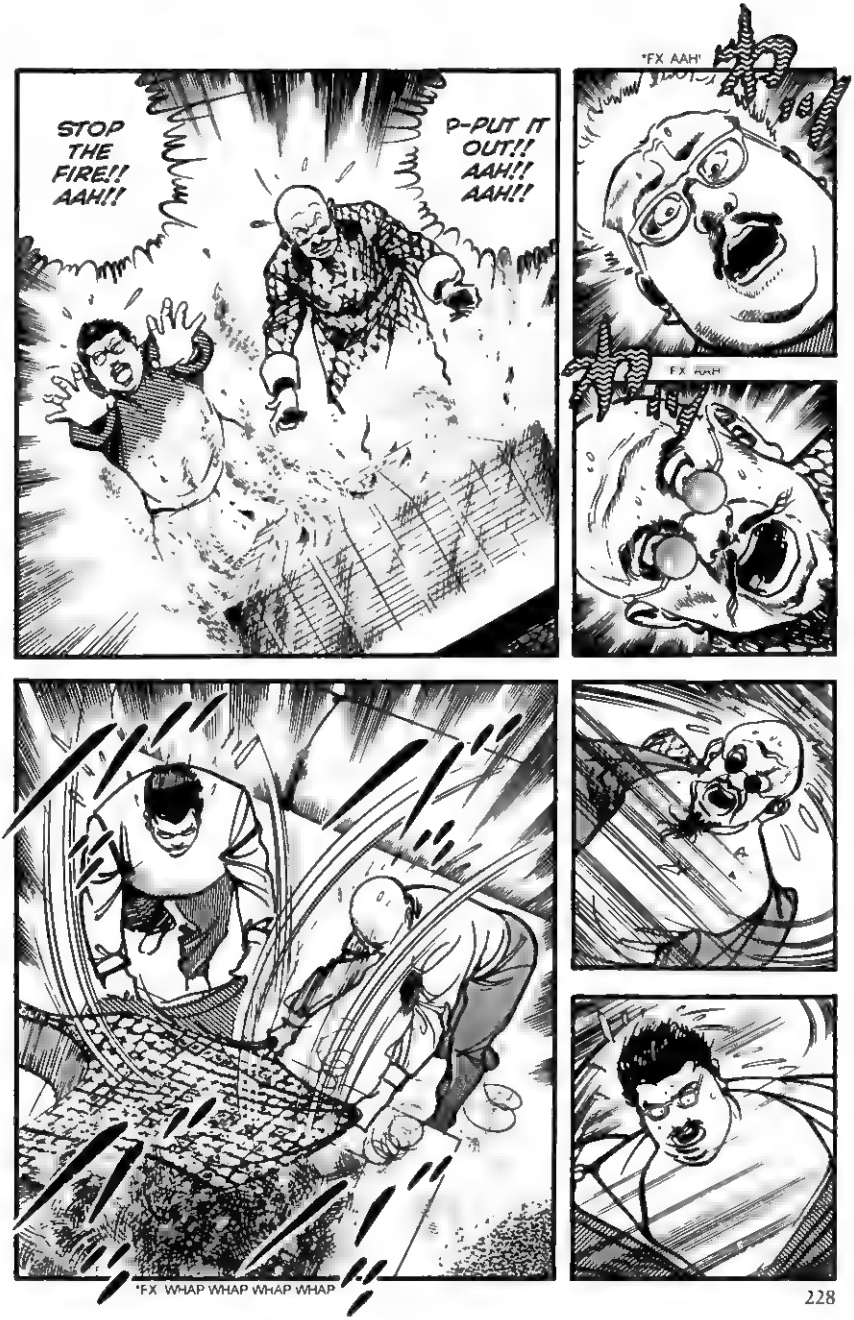


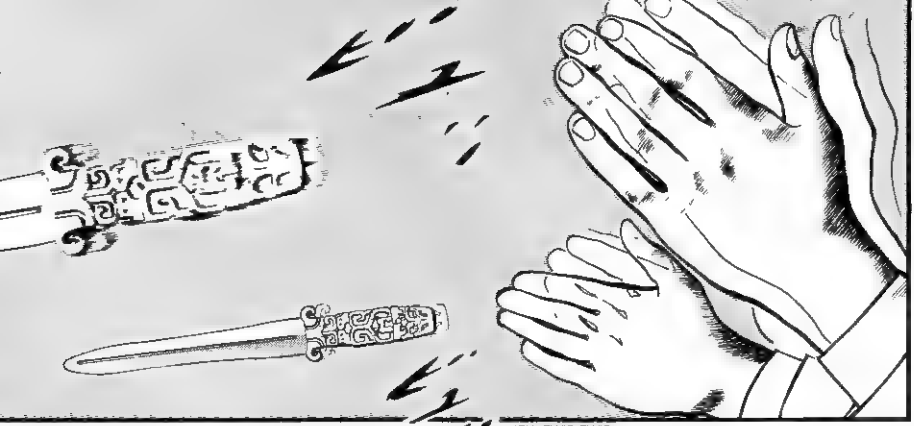
WHERE'S TSUNAIKE ?!

GIN

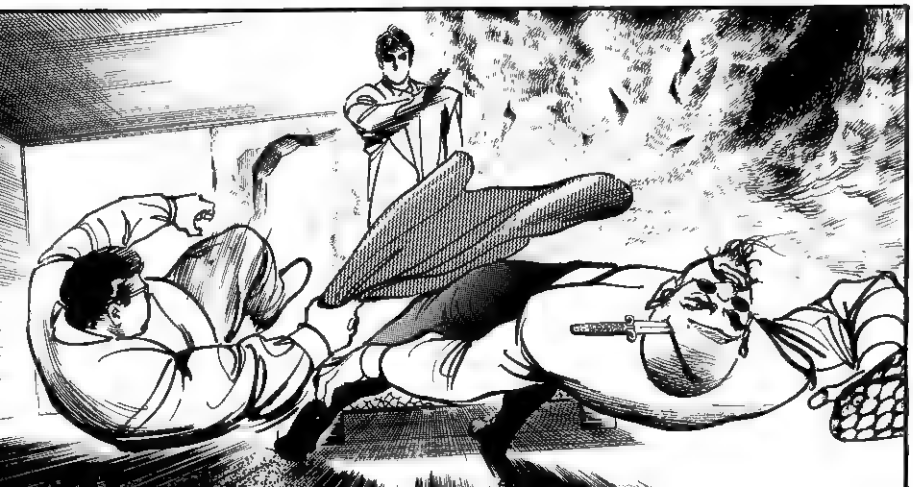
K- KUSHIRO... LAST I HEARD.

*FX PLOSH PLOSH
*FX HUH?
*FX SPLISH
?!

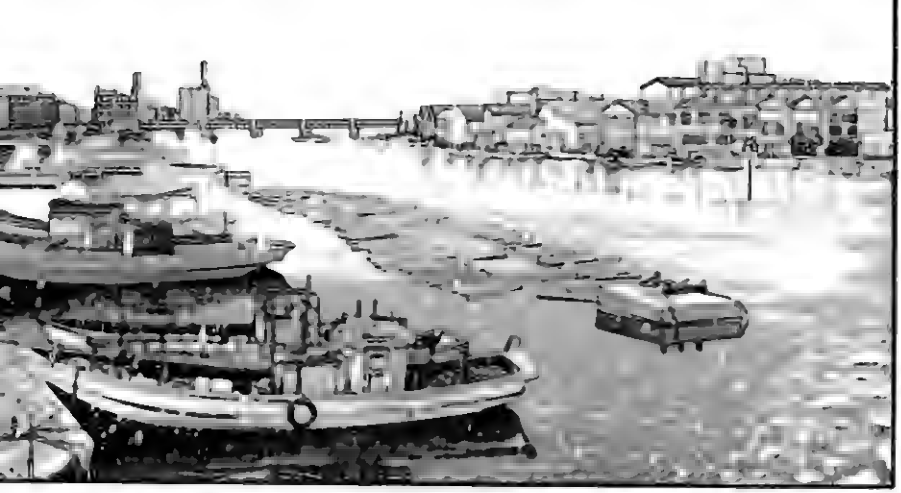

STOP THE FIRE!! AAH!!
P-PUT IT OUT!! AAH!! AAH!!
*FX AAH!
FX AAH!
*FX WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP



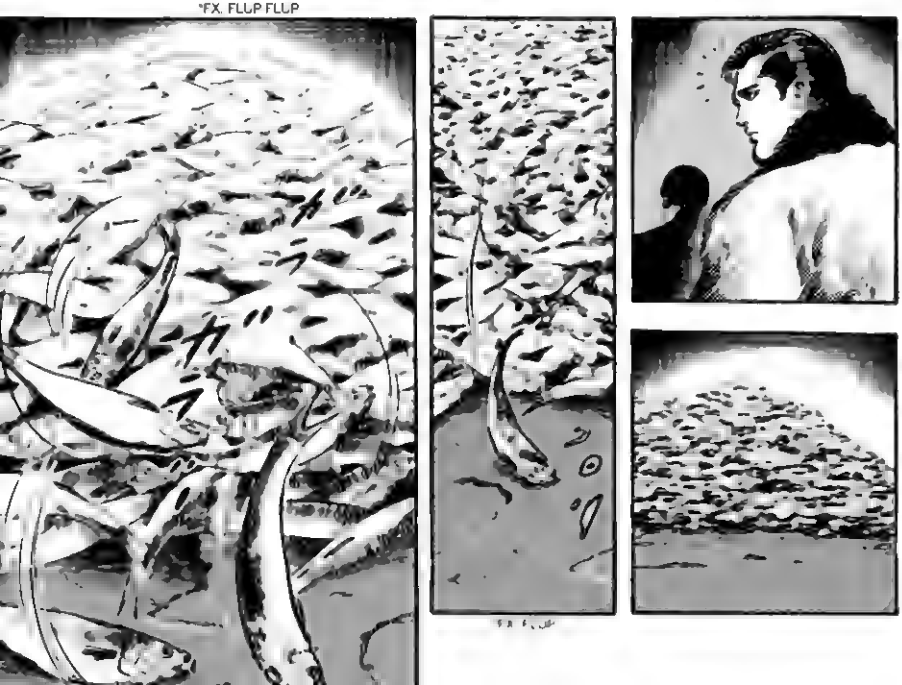
*FX FWIP FWIP



YOU TWO BOUGHT YOUR LIVES BACK WITH THAT MONEY. YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT. IF YOU'D JUST KEPT QUIET AND WATCHED IT BURN, I WOULD HAVE LET YOU LIVE.
*FX: ZNNNN
*FX: THD
*FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

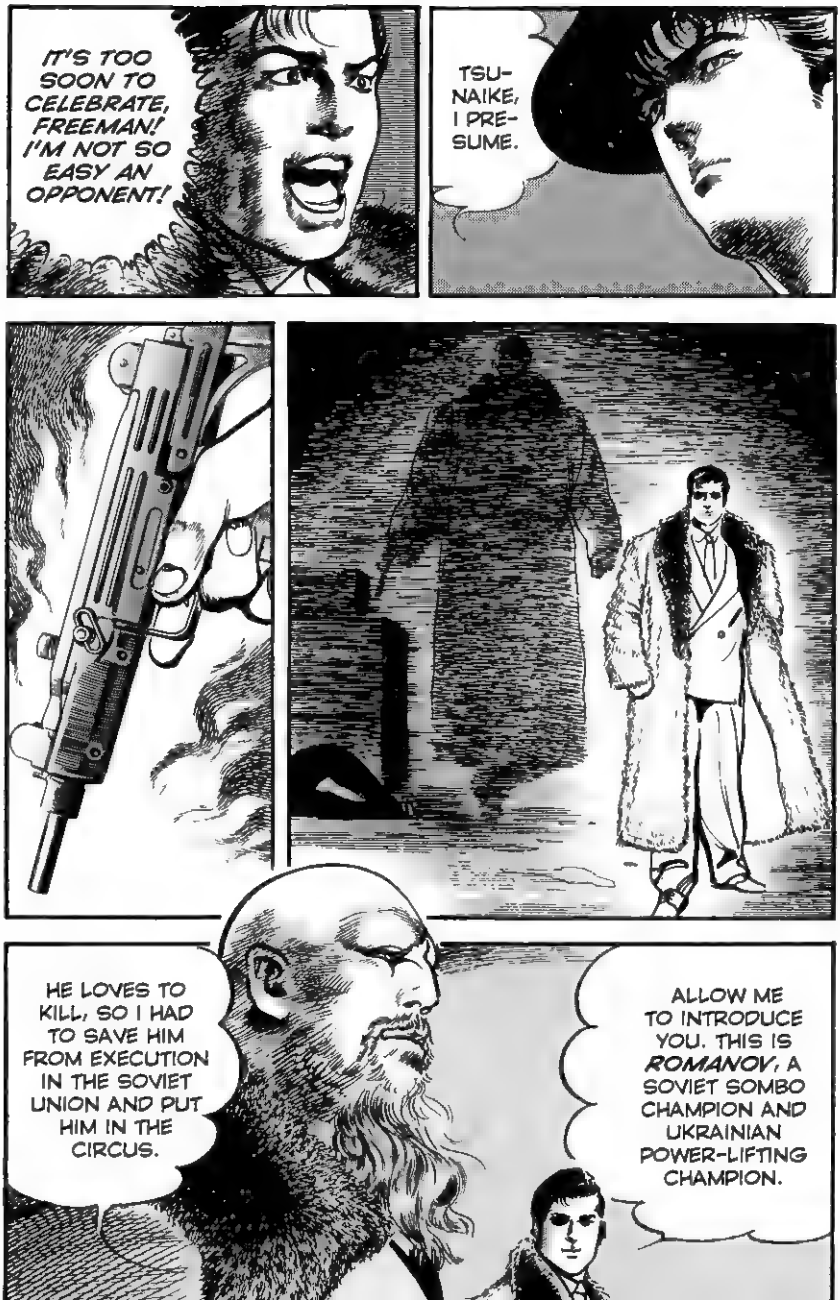


*FX. FLUP FLUP

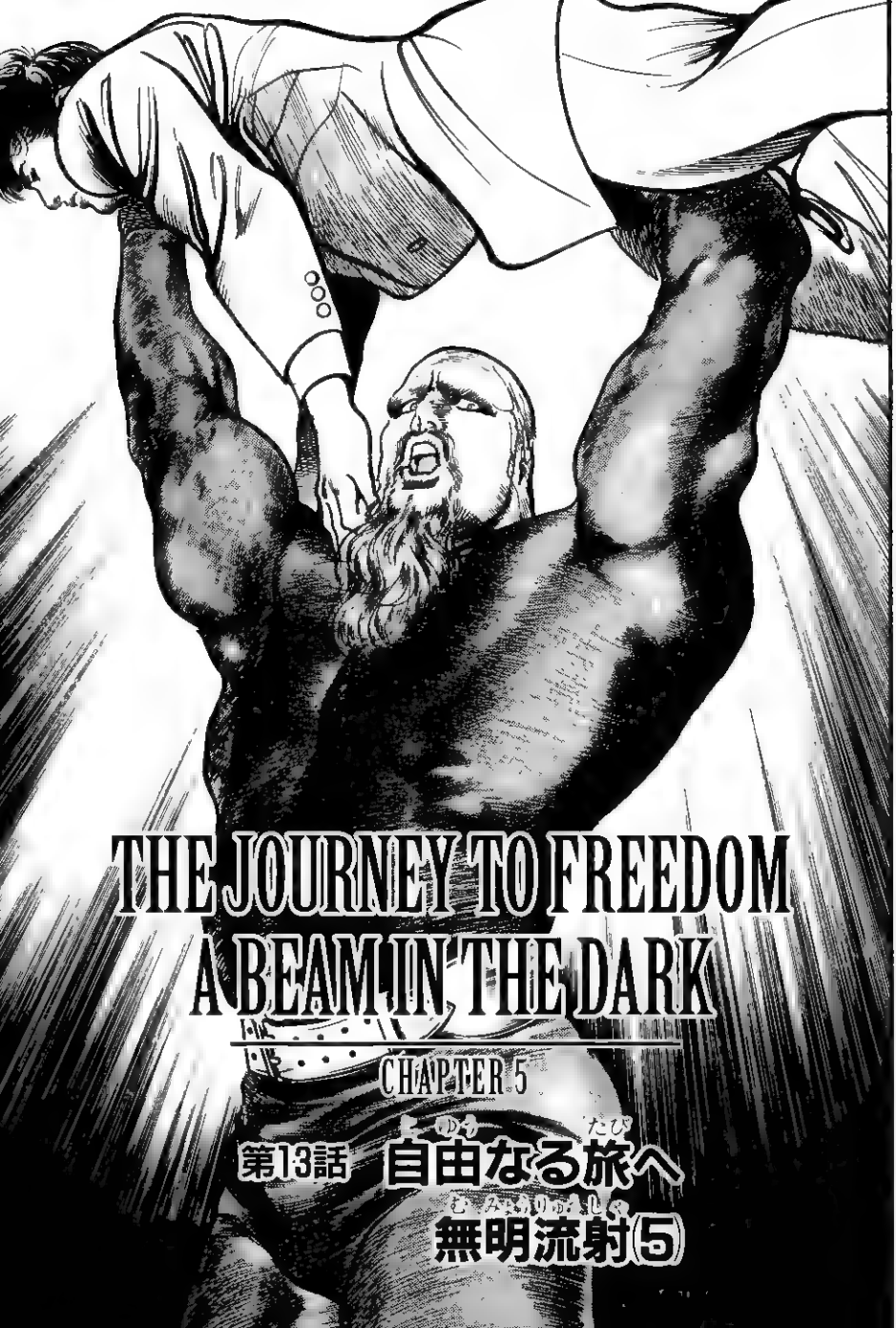


*THWACK

K-KILL HIM!!
FREE-MAN...
AAH!!
*FX BLAM
*BLAM
*BLAM


IT'S TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE, FREEMAN! I'M NOT SO EASY AN OPPONENT!
TSU-NAIKE, I PRE-SUME.
HE LOVES TO KILL, SO I HAD TO SAVE HIM FROM EXECUTION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND PUT HIM IN THE CIRCUS.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS ROMANOV, A SOVIET SOMBO CHAMPION AND UKRAINIAN POWER-LIFTING CHAMPION.

WHEN BEASTS FIGHT TO THE DEATH THEY USE THEIR LIMBS, THEIR CLAWS, THEIR FANGS.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE WE SHOULD BOTH THROW AWAY OUR WEAPONS?
KILLING A MAN IS THE ACT OF A BEAST. WE AREN'T HERE TO KILL RABBITS. YOU ARE A BEAST, LIKE ME.



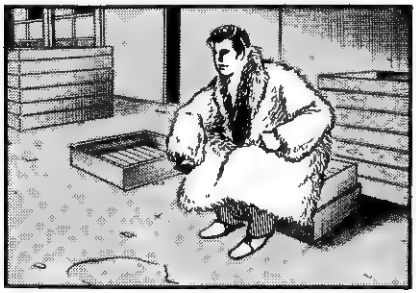
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 5

第13話　自由なる旅へ

無明流射⑤

FX SHEF



*FX. SHFF

*FX. SHFF

SO HE USES SOMBO, A SOVIET NATIONAL SPORT...
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, IT'S A MIXTURE OF JUDO AND WRESTLING AND EMERGED OUT OF FOLK MARTIAL ARTS STYLES.

*THWAKK THWAKK
*FX WHUKK THOKK
FX SHFF! SHFF!
HAH HAH HAH HAH! HE'S FAR TOO BIG FOR YOU! YOU SEEM TO BE STRUGGLING, FREEMAN!
MMF!
I HAVE TO AIM PRECISELY FOR HIS VITALS POINTS ...
SO THAT'S YOUR BEST? HUH HUH HUH ...

*THWAKK
GRAAH !!
HYAA!
*THPP

MMPH!
*CHOKK
UGGH!!

*CHOKK
*FX THUMP
*FX THWUMP
URGHH!
*FX SHSSS

*FX SLRP SLRP
NO! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY MAN KNOCK ROMANOV TO HIS KNEES BEFORE... FREEMAN'S UNBELIEV-ABLE...
YEEAAH!
HUH HUH HUH! NOT BAD AT ALL! JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM CRYING FREEMAN...

UGH!
*FX THPP
*FX FWOOSH FWOOSH
GRRAAAH!!

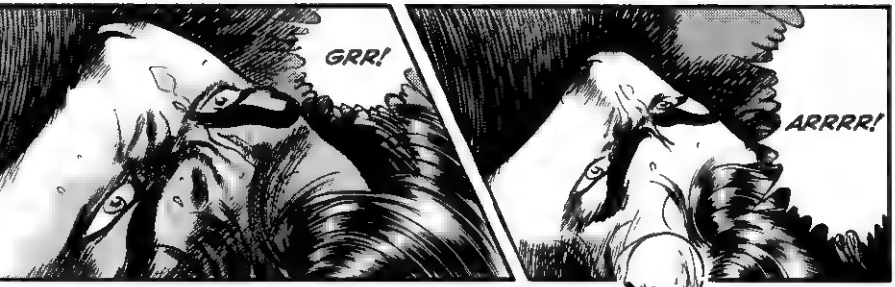
*FX THUMP
*FX SHUKK
DO SOMETHING AND GRAB HIM, ROMANOV! THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL BE ABLE TO BREAK YOUR GRIP!!
URRGG...
HYII!!

GRRAAHH!!
BWAH HAHAHAHA! ROMANOV EVEN LIFTS UP BABY ELEPHANTS AT THE CIRCUS WITH THAT SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF HIS!!
*GRRAAAH

UFF!
URGHH!

*WHMMP
*FX KRIK KR K

GAHAHAHAHA! NO ONE CAN GET OUT OF ROMANOV'S SUBMISSION HOLD!! IT'S ALL OVER, FREEMAN!!
YEEARGH !!
URGH! ANY MORE OF THIS AND MY ARM WILL BREAK...


GRR!
ARRRR!

*FX WHUD WHUD!

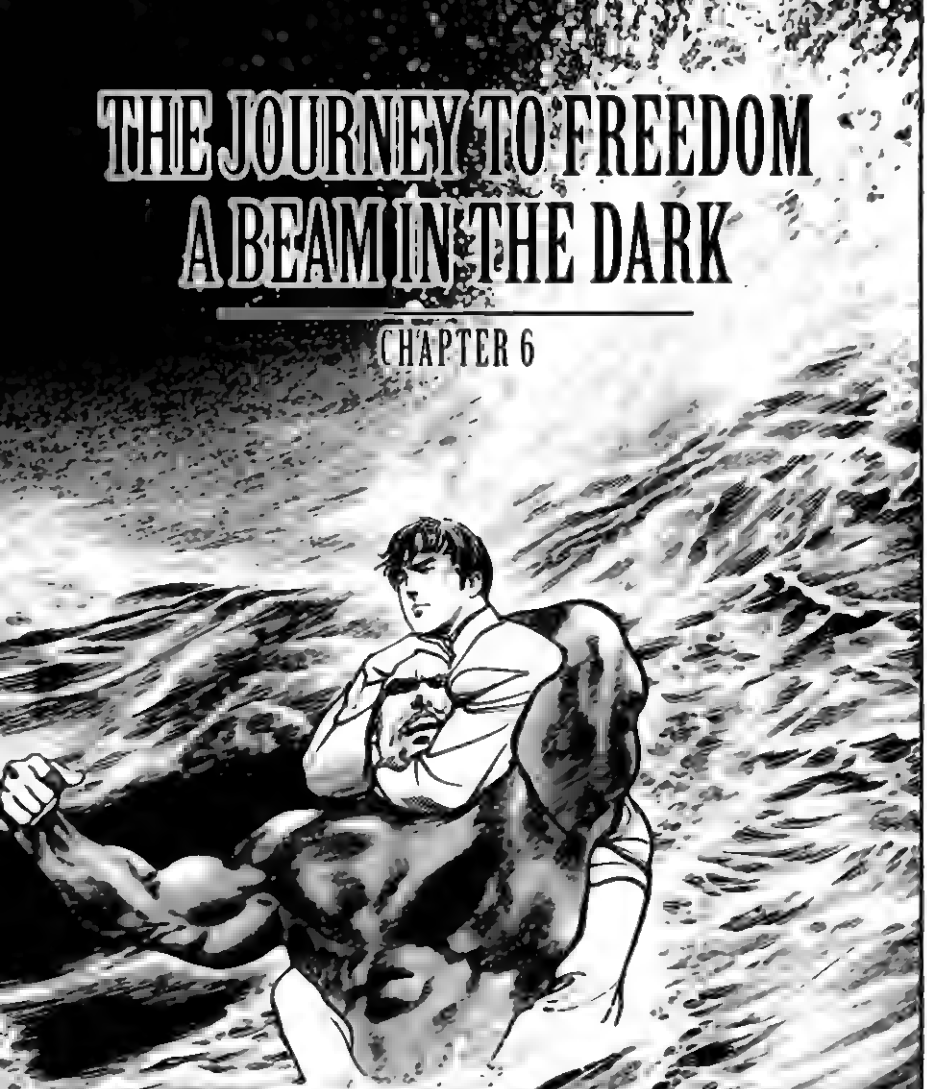
*FX WHAK
AGHH!
*FX WHUP

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

HUH HUH! MY, WHAT TROUBLE YOU'VE GIVEN ME SO FAR... I'M ENJOYING THIS! ENJOYING IT SO VERY MUCH...

THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 6



第13話　自由なる旅へ

無明流射(6)

GO ON NOW! IT'S A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
HAHAHAHAHA! I'M THE ONE WITH THE GUNS, SO NO MATTER HOW IT TURNS OUT, I WIN.

*FX SHFF SHFF
*FX WHOOOO

...AND GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO GRASP YOUR NECK!
COME ON, YOU RUNT!! TRY TO KICK ME IN THE CROTCH! COME KICK ME AS HARD AS YOU CAN WHEN YOU SEE ME OPEN UP...
WHEN HE LUNGES TO GRAB ME, THE VITALS IN HIS CROTCH AREA WILL BE EXPOSED, BUT..

HUH?! CHICKEN WING?!
*FX KRAK
URGH... YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED MY TRYING TO PUT YOU IN A SLEEPER HOLD, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BRING ME DOWN?!

*FX SSSP
*FX THD
たら〜り

*FX THD THD THD THD
*FX THWP
URRRGH...

*WHOOSH
*FX WHAK
*FX WHAK
*FX THPP
*FX WHUPP!

*THOKK
*FX HRRK
FX KRIK
IT'S TIME TO END THIS!!

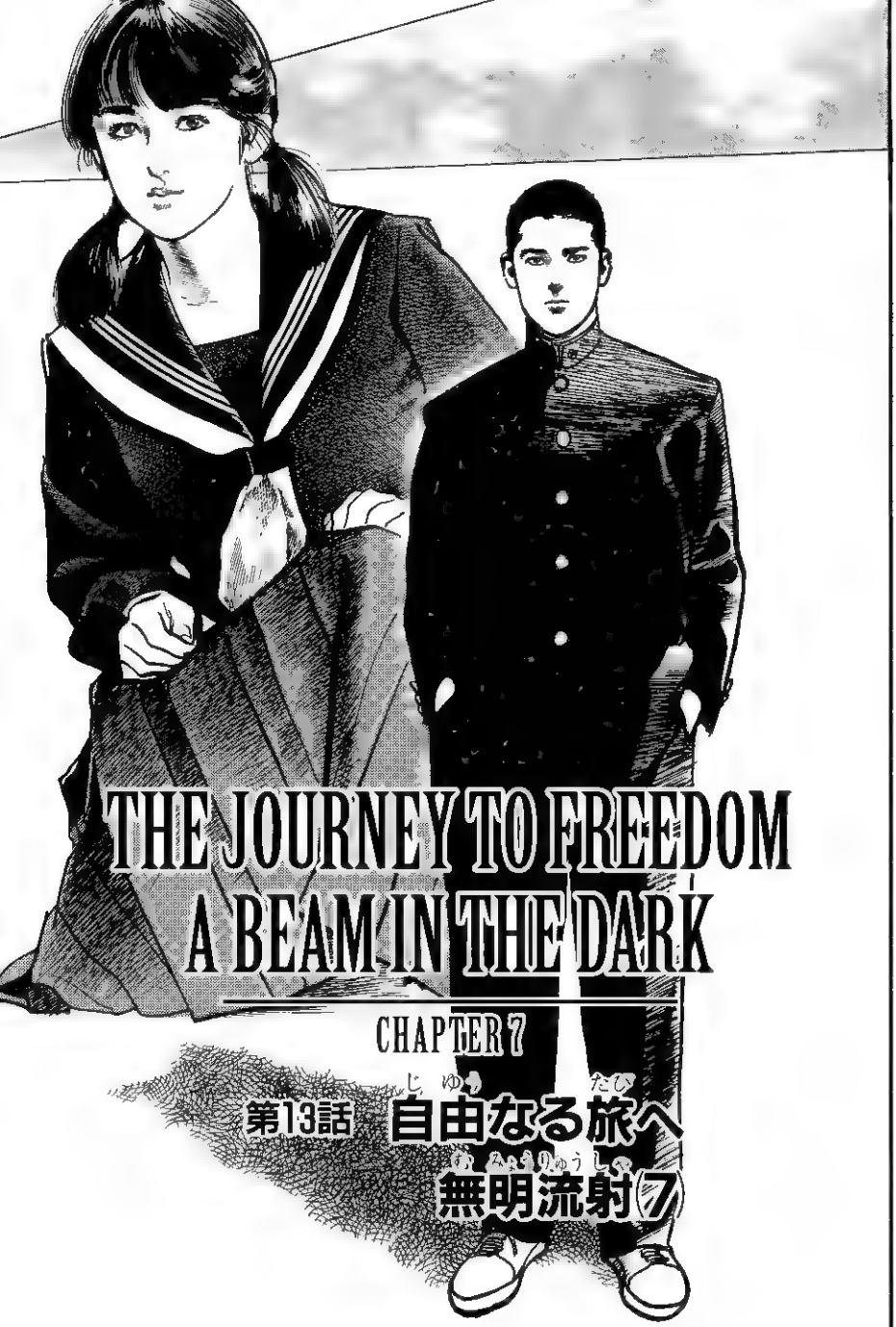
HE DID IT!!
*FX SPLLAASHH
*FX WHOOSH FWAASH

ROMANOV USED TO BOAST ABOUT HOW HE COULD LAST TWENTY MINUTES IN THIS ICY SEA, NO PROBLEM!

*FX GRIN
*FX P_P
YOU FINALLY BEAT HIM!
*FX WHPP

*SHUKK
*FWAASHH
AAH!!
*FX SF
*FX AAAH
YOU NEVER REALIZED THAT BY CLINGING TO ROMANOV'S BACK, I COULD ABSORB HIS BODY HEAT AND LAST LONGER IN THE WATER THAN HE COULD, DID YOU?
NOT TO MENTION YOU NEVER WORKED OUT WHO WOULD HOLD THEIR BREATH LONGER-- THE CHOKER OR THE ONE BEING CHOKED.
AAH! AAAAH !!
S-SAVE ME!! PLEEEASE!!

YOU'RE SO WEAK. DELI-CATE
FRAGILE. IS THAT WHY YOU NEEDED SOMEONE ELSE TO FIGHT FOR YOU?
AND THE STRONG CANNOT BE AR-ROGANT.
A WEAK-LING CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SO CARE-LESS.

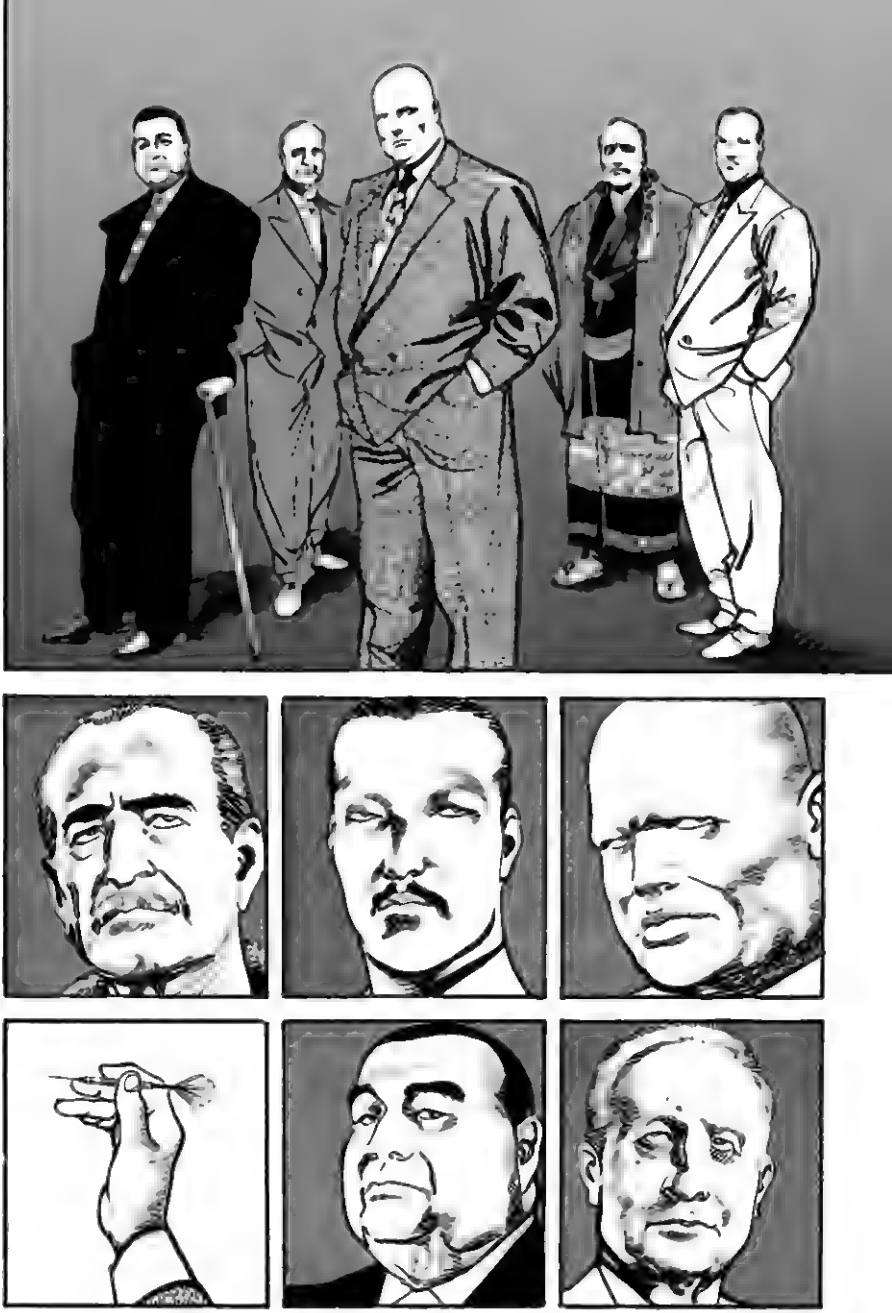


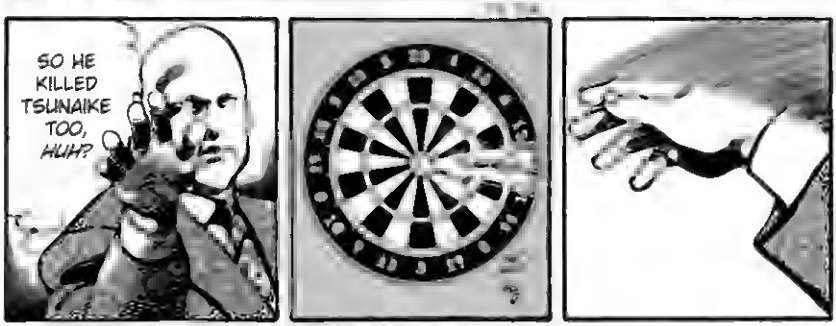
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 7

第13話　自由なる旅へ

無明流射⑦




SO HE KILLED TSUNAIKE TOO, HUH?

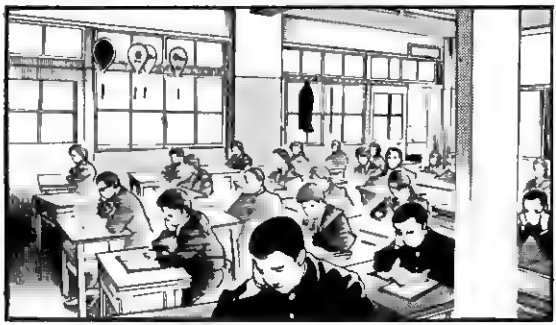
*FX TOK
CHOKO TATEOKA'S DEAD, TOO.
AND THE AIDOS.
KILLED THAT SICK OLD SON OF A BITCH WADA-SHIMA, TOO.
THE RUMOR'S TRUE THAT THE KANTO TOMOKAZU SOCIETY BOSS, YOSHITARO TACHIBANA, WAS SO AFRAID OF THE 108 DRAGONS THAT HE SOLD OUT WADASHIMA TO FREEMAN.

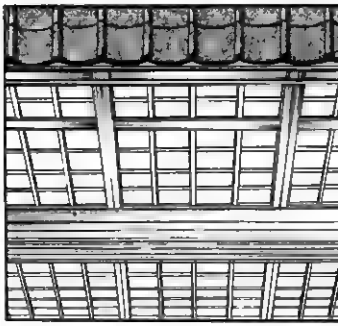
*FX TOK
*FX TOK
*FX TOK
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF ENEMIES.
YEAH, BUT HE WOULDN'T JUST RECK-LESSLY ACCEPT AN OFFER LIKE THAT.
IF THEY'VE GOT THE MONEY, THEY CAN AFFORD TO HIRE FREEMAN.
TOO MANY ENE-MIES.
*FX TOK
*FX TOK
I DON'T KNOW... THE AIDOS ARE ANOTHER STORY, BUT HE MUST'VE TAKEN OUT TSUNAIKE AND WADA-SHIMA FOR DOUGH.

of silence)

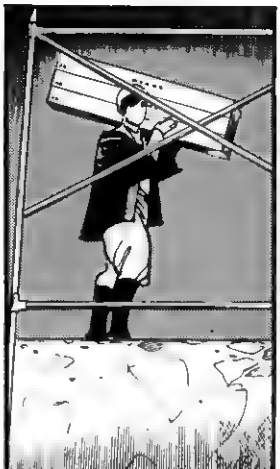
THEY SAY HE'S THE BEST IN THE WORLD. NOBODY'S GOT A CHANCE AGAINST HIM. HE SCARES THE SHIT OUTTA ME.
WITH A GUY LIKE THAT AROUND, YOU CAN'T SLEEP SO EASY, YOU KNOW?
SURE, BUT ONLY IF WE CAN HAVE SOME GUARANTEE THAT HE'LL ACTUALLY BE KILLED.
SHOULD WE OFF HIM?

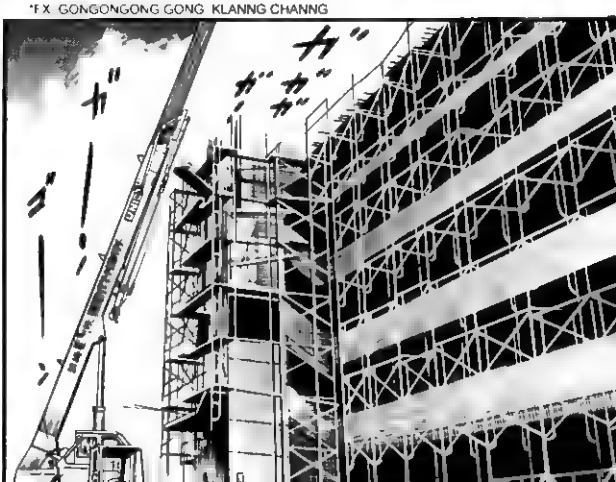
*FX GONGGONGGONG KLANNG CHANNG





*FX GONGONGONG GONG KLANNG CHANNG





苦行組
*FX THD THD

"A BOY SPIED A ROSE WILD ON THE HEATH."

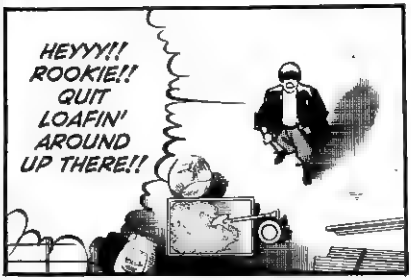
"BLOOMING SO PURELY, THE LOVELY FLOWER..."

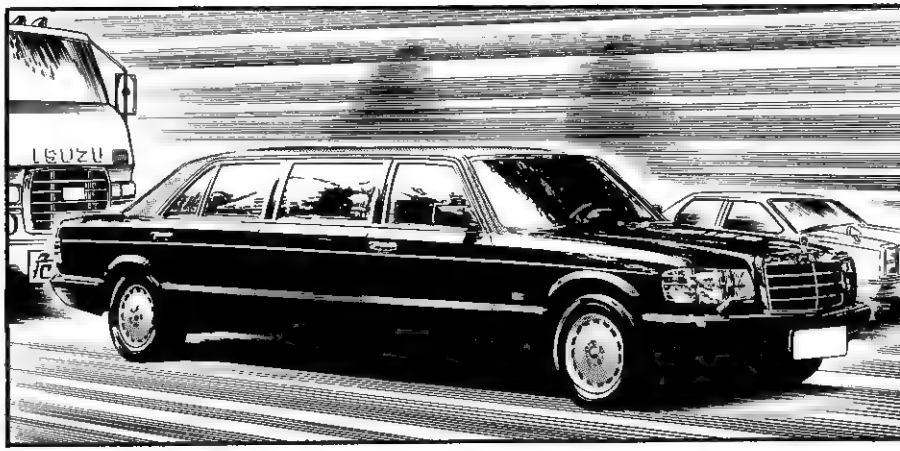
I'VE BECOME THE LEADER OF THE 108 DRAGONS.
ONCE UPON A TIME, IT WAS ME OVER THERE SINGING... AND NOW I'VE BECOME THE KIND OF MAN WHO JUST READS THE STUDENTS' LIPS.

HEIDEN-RÖSLEIN ...

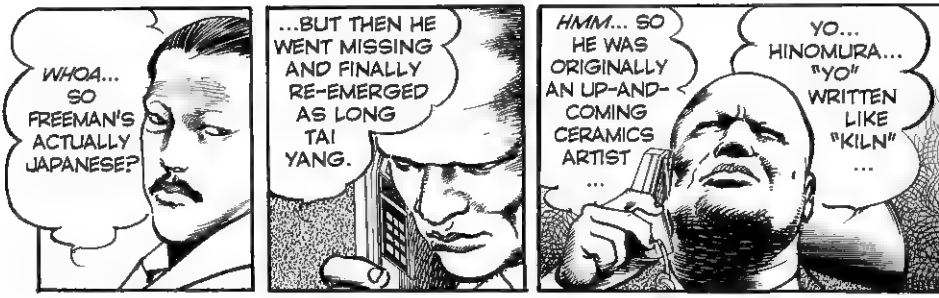
OH! SORRY, SIR!

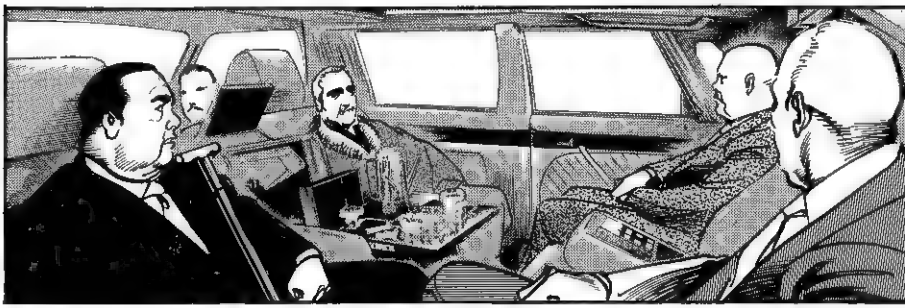
YOU COULD JUST CALL IT DESTINY AND LEAVE IT THERE, BUT...

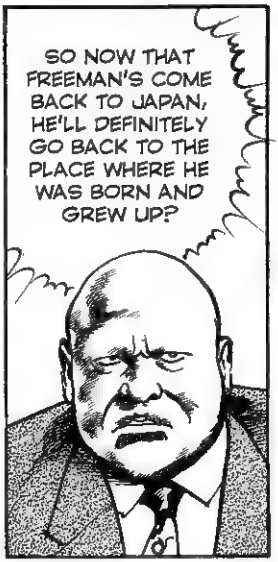

HEYYY!! ROOKIE!! QUIT LOAFIN' AROUND UP THERE!!

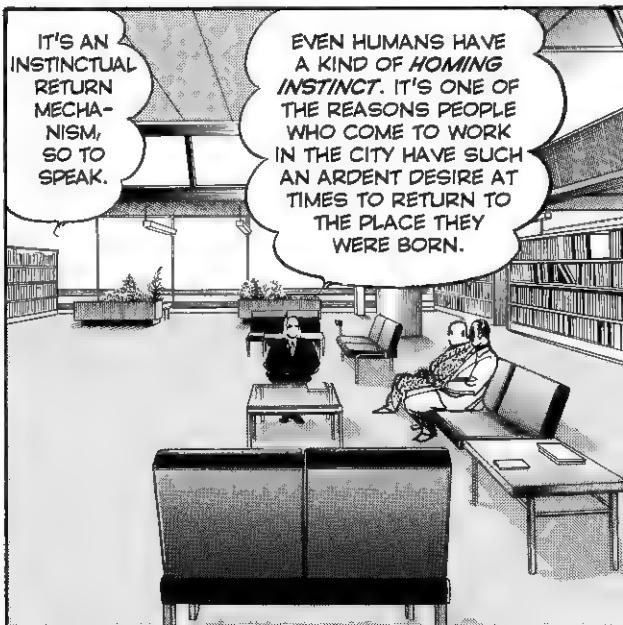

ISUZU

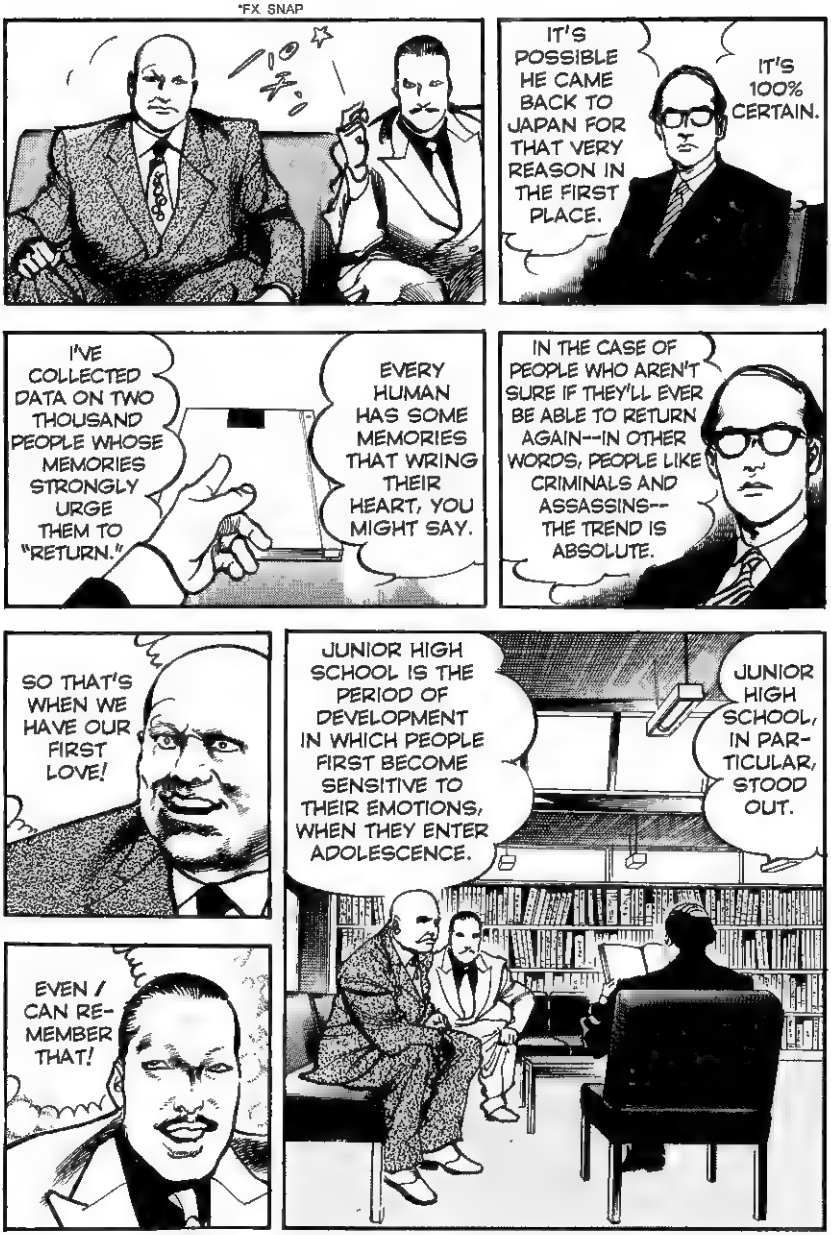
*FX RRRR


WHOA... SO FREEMAN'S ACTUALLY JAPANESE?
...BUT THEN HE WENT MISSING AND FINALLY RE-EMERGED AS LONG TAI YANG.
HMM... SO HE WAS ORIGINALLY AN UP-AND-COMING CERAMICS ARTIST ...
YO... HINOMURA... "YO" WRITTEN LIKE "KILN" ...




SO NOW THAT FREEMAN'S COME BACK TO JAPAN, HE'LL DEFINITELY GO BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS BORN AND GREW UP?


IT'S AN INSTINCTUAL RETURN MECHA-NISM, SO TO SPEAK.
EVEN HUMANS HAVE A KIND OF *HOMING INSTINCT*. IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS PEOPLE WHO COME TO WORK IN THE CITY HAVE SUCH AN ARDENT DESIRE AT TIMES TO RETURN TO THE PLACE THEY WERE BORN.


*FX SNAP
IT'S POSSIBLE HE CAME BACK TO JAPAN FOR THAT VERY REASON IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT'S 100% CERTAIN.
I'VE COLLECTED DATA ON TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE WHOSE MEMORIES STRONGLY URGE THEM TO "RETURN."
EVERY HUMAN HAS SOME MEMORIES THAT WRING THEIR HEART, YOU MIGHT SAY.
IN THE CASE OF PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SURE IF THEY'LL EVER BE ABLE TO RETURN AGAIN--IN OTHER WORDS, PEOPLE LIKE CRIMINALS AND ASSASSINS-- THE TREND IS ABSOLUTE.
SO THAT'S WHEN WE HAVE OUR FIRST LOVE!
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IS THE PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE FIRST BECOME SENSITIVE TO THEIR EMOTIONS, WHEN THEY ENTER ADOLESCENCE.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, IN PARTICULAR, STOOD OUT.
EVEN I CAN REMEMBER THAT!

*FX SKREE
香村組
*FX BAM
WELCOME BACK! YOU MUST BE TIRED!
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A BATH AND STAY FOR DINNER?
SIR.
HEY, RYUTA!
I CAN'T TODAY, BUT I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK.

NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT HIM. THE GUY'S CREEPY.
I WOULDN'T WASTE TOO MUCH CHARITY ON HIM, POP!
LET'S DO IT!
YES.
WE GONNA KILL HIM?
WE'LL SHOW EVERYONE!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO DEMONSTRATE OUR STRENGTH!

FX WHUP

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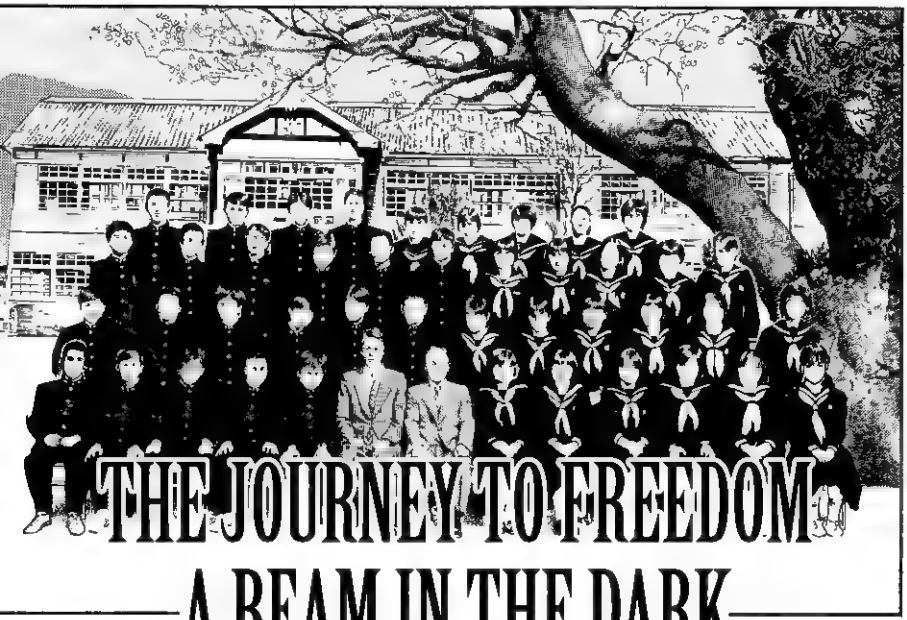
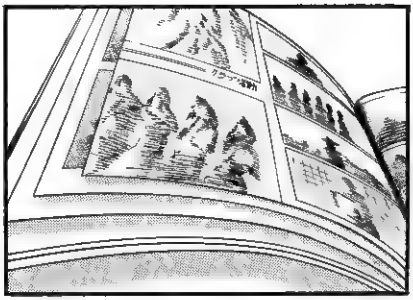


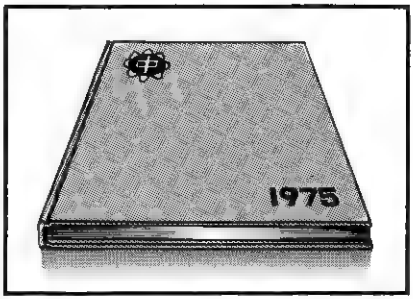
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 8

第13話　自由(じゆう)なる旅(たび)へ

無明流射(むみょうりゅうしゃ)(8)

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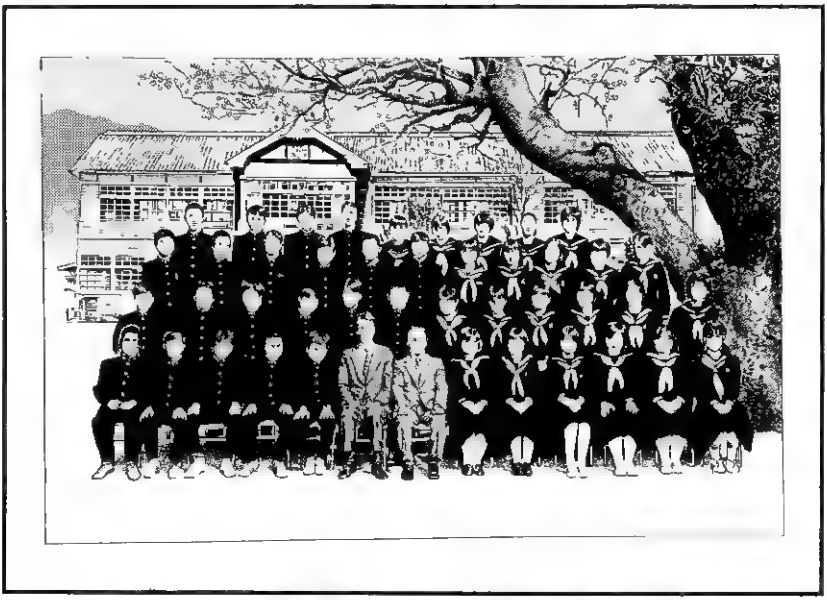
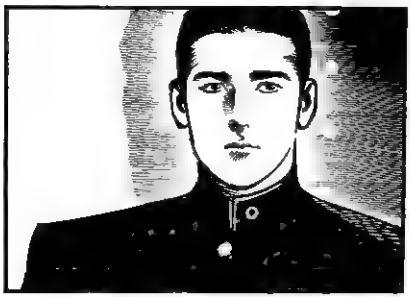
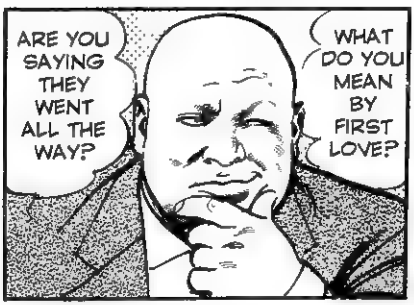




EVEN I'VE GOT SOME FAINT MEMORIES OF THOSE DAYS.
SO THAT CHICK WAS FREEMAN'S FIRST LOVE?
THIS KID, *HUH?*
THE HANDSOME KID ON THE FAR LEFT IS YO HINOMURA, AND THE PRETTY YOUNG THING ON THE FAR RIGHT IS ***RIE KATAYOSE.***
AW, SHUT UP! NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR YOU GO DOWN MEMORY LANE!


ARE YOU SAYING THEY WENT ALL THE WAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FIRST LOVE?

THERE'S NO DOUBT -- IT WAS THE FIRST LOVE FOR THE BOTH OF 'EM!
I DUG UP SOME OF THEIR OLD CLASSMATES AND GOT THE SCOOP.

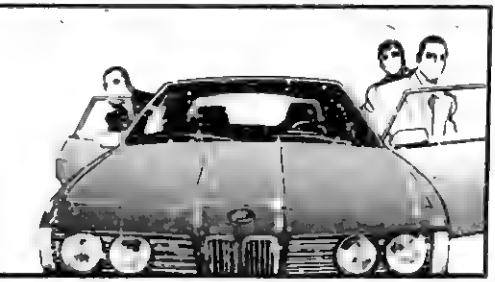
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
RIGHT. SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, *HUH?*

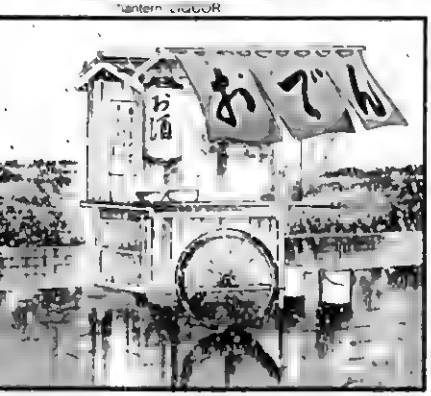
THEY DIDN'T EVEN HOLD HANDS, AND THAT'S WHY THEY REMEMBER IT AS THEIR FIRST LOVE. IF THEY WERE ***DOING IT***, THEY'D HARDLY HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF IT AT ALL!
YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH FOR A ***BOSS***, DO YA?

AND THEN YOU DO IT?
THEY WILL. SO THEY CAN PART FOR-EVER.
SO WILL THEY MEET?
*FX. CLAP CLAP
IF THEY DON'T MEET ON THEIR OWN, I'LL SET THINGS UP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YES !!

THANK YOU KIND-LY!
JUST LEAVE IT TO US AND IT'LL ALL BE A-OKAY!
*FX SMILE
YOU'LL GET THE OTHER FIFTY MILLION AFTER YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF FREEMAN.
SO THEY'RE "THE TOWN," HUH ...?
SURE. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU SURE THIS'LL WORK?
THAT'S HOW THEY GOT THEIR NAME ...
*FX FSHH
...OR JUST WHERE THEY'LL BE LYING IN WAIT.
"THE TOWN" IS THE GROUP'S NAME. NOBODY KNOWS JUST HOW THE HELL MANY MEMBERS THEY GOT...
FUKU THERE RUNS AN ODEN CART, BUT SHE'S THEIR LEAD-ER.

"THERE WAS THIS THREE-MAN STRIKE TEAM THAT TOOK OUT THE BOSS OF THE KOJIMA GROUP IN NIIGATA."
"THE ONES WHO DID THE CLEAN JOB FINISHING *THEM* OFF WERE THE TOWN."
"SEE, THE GUNMEN HAD BEEN SENT TO DO THE JOB BY THEIR BOSSES--THE NIITAKA GROUP. THEY CONVINCED THE THREE TO TURN THEMSELVES IN SO THEY'D BE SAFE FROM RETALIATION AND WERE ESCORTING THEM TO NIIGATA POLICE HEADQUARTERS..."

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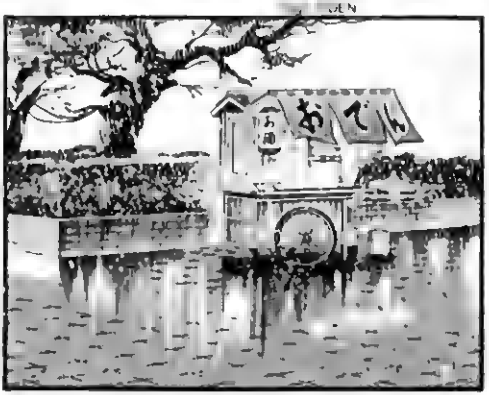
お酒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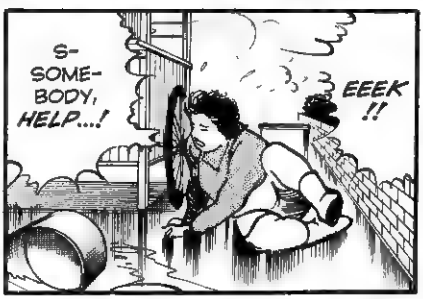
SURE.
HOW 'BOUT ONE LAST DRINK TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

お酒
おでん
*FX RATATATA

RATATATA



*FX SPLOOSH!

珈琲
万よし
*FX SKAASHH!
*FX HAHH HAHH HAHH
*FX SHFF!
*FX HAHH HAHH HAHH
はあ
はあ
はあ
EEEEK
!!

*FX YEEARGH
*FX SHOKK
HE MUST HAVE BEEN WOUND-ED! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
*FX RKK RKK
ズ"
*FX SHRRFF

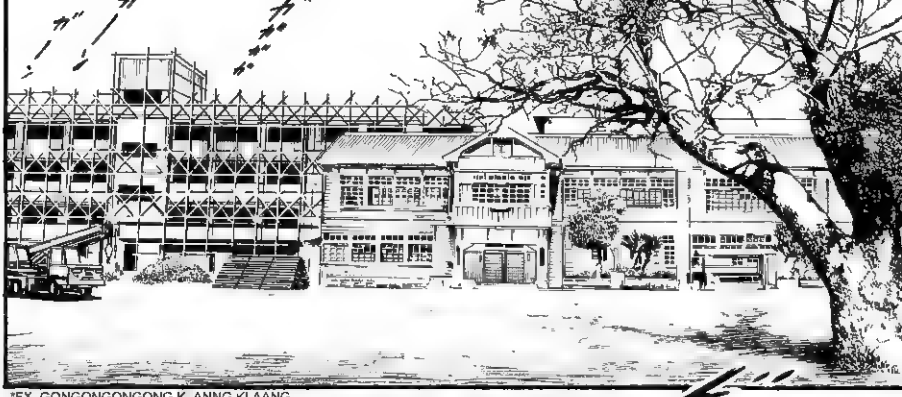
*sign BIKO PHARMACY

*FX AAAH EEEK!!

*FX FSSSS

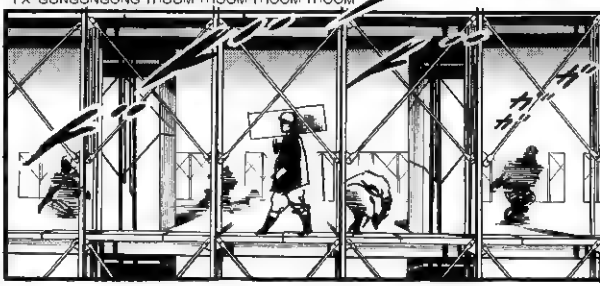
*can BUG OFF!!

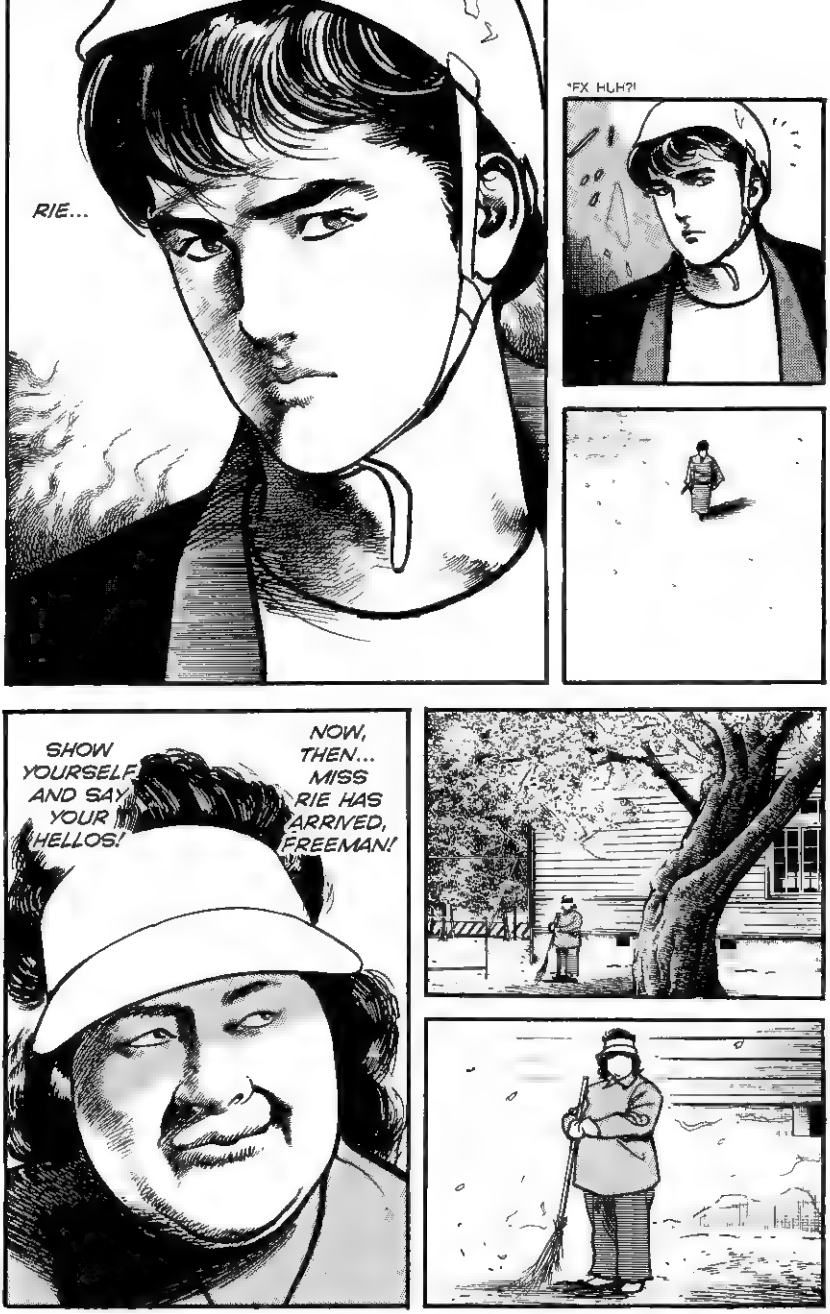
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "THE TOWN." ONCE YOU'RE IN THEIR SIGHTS, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THEM.
ONCE *THE TOWN* HAS PINNED DOWN THEIR TARGET, THEY SEND DOZENS OF AGENTS TO THE CITY AND PLANT THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE, WAITING FOR THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.
EVEN FREE-MAN WILL BE SCREWED. HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL WHO'S GONNA COME AFTER HIM NEXT.
SOUNDS PRETTY FUCKIN' SCARY. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S LIKE *EVERY* SINGLE PER-SON AROUND COULD BE A KILLER!
...SO THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D EVER SEND THE TOWN AFTER US.
ME AND FUKU ARE CLOSE...

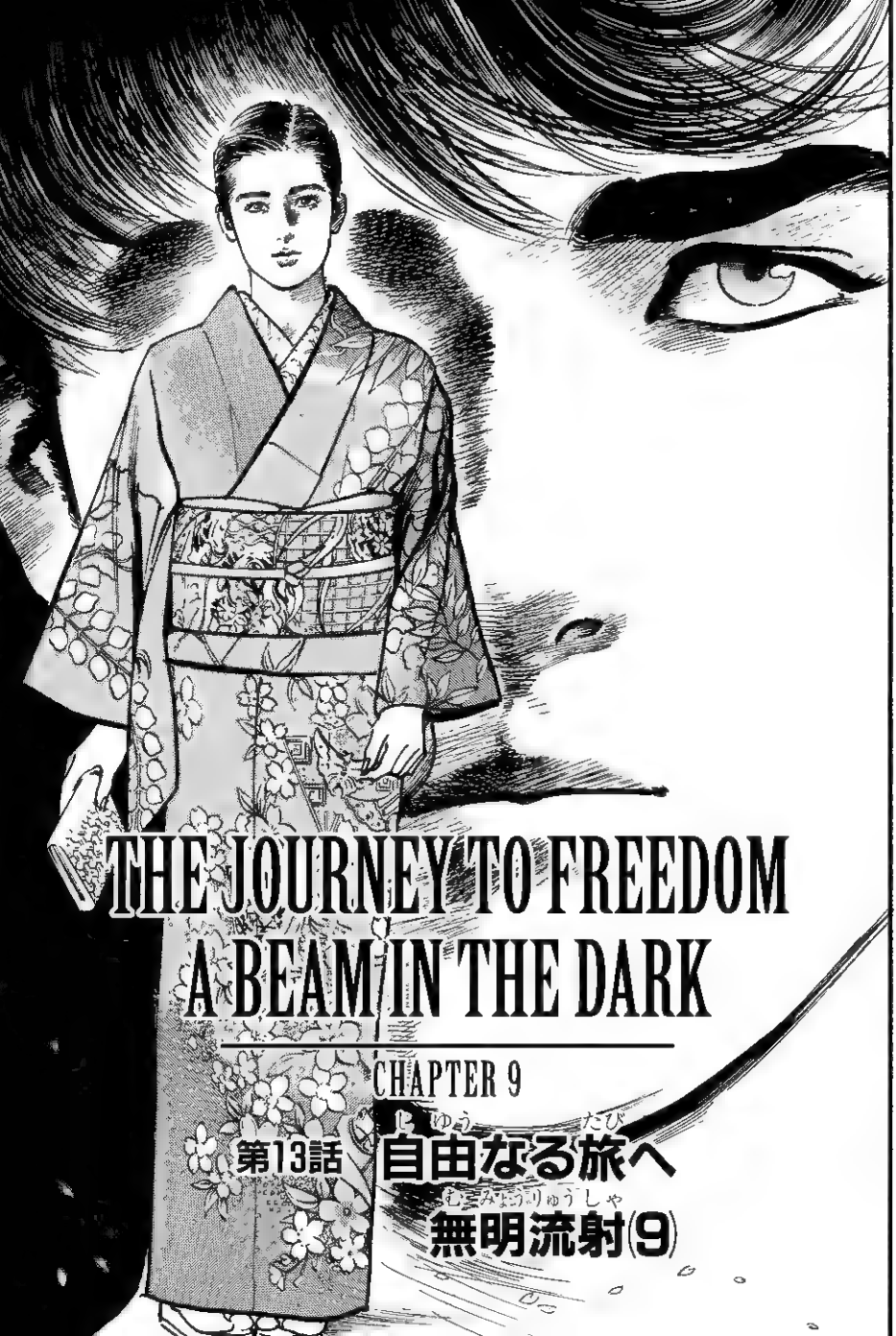


*FX GONGONGONGONG K..ANNG KLAANG

*FX GONGONGONG THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM



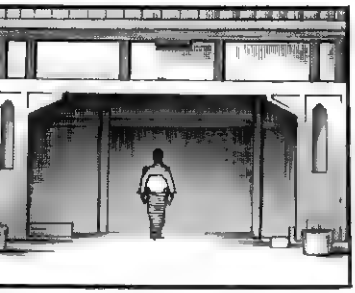

RIE...
*FX HUH?!
SHOW YOURSELF AND SAY YOUR HELLOS!
NOW, THEN... MISS RIE HAS ARRIVED, FREEMAN!

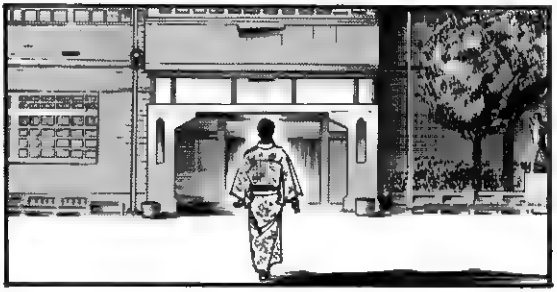


THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

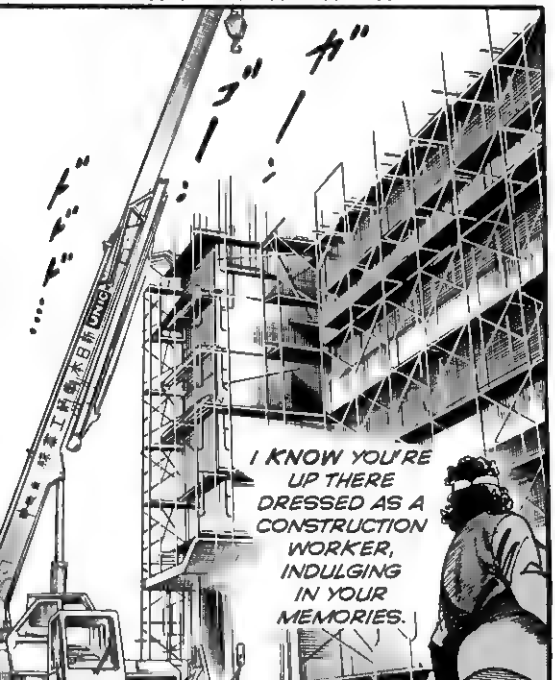
CHAPTER 9

第13話 自由なる旅へ
無明流射(9)

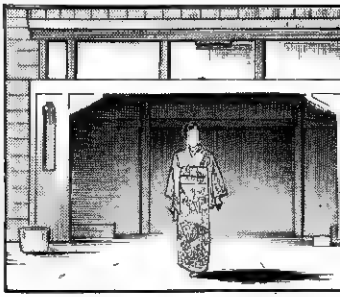


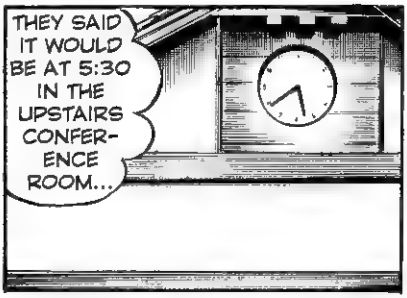


*FX GONG KLAANG THOOM THOOM THOOM



CAN I HELP YOU?
I THINK MR. NAKAJIMA, THE NIGHT MAN, IS AROUND SOMEWHERE ...
EXCUSE ME. IS THERE NO ONE ELSE PRESENT?




THEY SAID IT WOULD BE AT 5:30 IN THE UPSTAIRS CONFER-ENCE ROOM...

I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL TELLING ME THERE WOULD BE A MEETING TONIGHT TO PLAN A CLASS REUNION. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I SAW MRS. SASAKI, THE WIFE OF THE PHARMACIST, EARLIER, BUT SHE SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING AND WENT HOME IN A HUFF...
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAIT A BIT?

IS THAT SO? WELL, THEN, I HOPE YOU'LL WAIT.

SHE'S ONE OF MY CLASSMATES! MRS. SASAKI IS THE ONE WHO PHONED ME!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S KNOCK OFF!
RYUTA! GET A MOVE ON AND FINISH UP!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY THINKIN' ?!
A WO-MAN? HUH!
I'VE GOTTA MAKE A STOP ON THE WAY HOME.
YOU GO ON A-HEAD.

WHERE ARE YOU FREE MAN

DID I FIGURE WRONG
FUNKY EVERYBODY AT THE GATES GONE HOME

DO I HAVE TO FORCE HIM OUT?
AFTER ALL I WENT THROUGH TO SET UP THE BAIT, I'LL REALLY HAVE TO PUT HER TO USE NOW!
HE MUST STILL BE HERE!
*FX FWOOSH

*FX VRRVRRVRR RMMRMMRMM

*FX AAH!

*FX VRRVRRVRR RMMRMMRMM

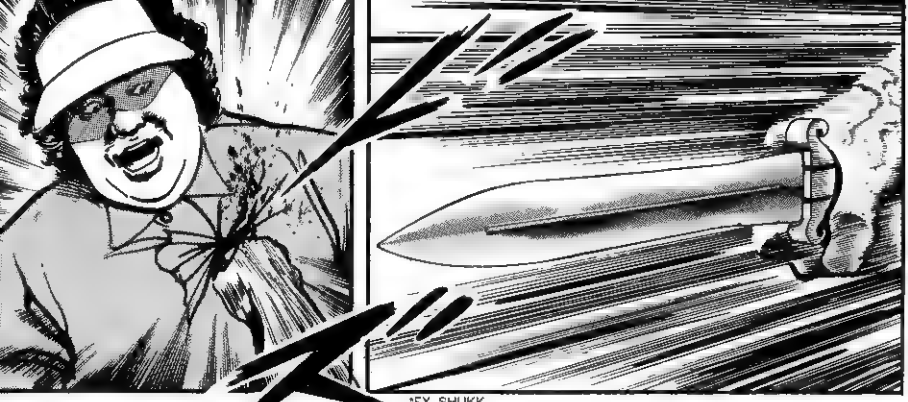
FX WHAM!
SHUT THE FUCK UP, YOU OLD BAG!
HEY!! STOP THAT!! GET OUTTA HERE!!
*FX RMMRMMRMMRMM
EEEK! SOME-BODY, HELP!!

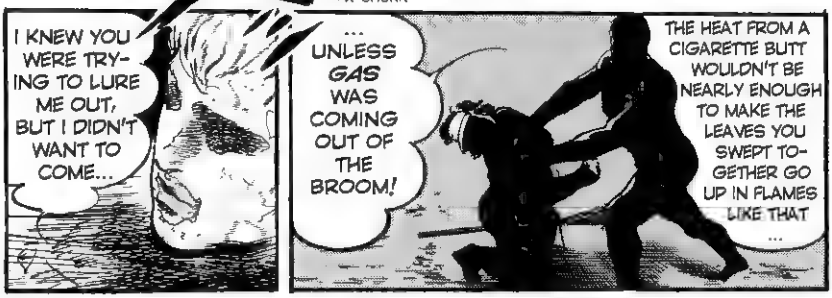
*CHOKK
*WHPP

*WOOSH

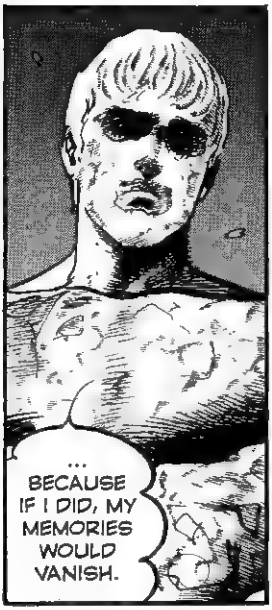
*FX KRRRSSSHH

I DID IT!! I KILLED FREEMAN !!


*FX SHUKK


I KNEW YOU WERE TRYING TO LURE ME OUT, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO COME...
...UNLESS GAS WAS COMING OUT OF THE BROOM!
THE HEAT FROM A CIGARETTE BUTT WOULDN'T BE NEARLY ENOUGH TO MAKE THE LEAVES YOU SWEPT TOGETHER GO UP IN FLAMES LIKE THAT...

BUT WE'VE GOT YOU NOW, FREEMAN! HEH HEH HEH HEH! IT'S ALL OVER!
YOU CAME OUT COVERED IN CEMENT ...?!
*FX WHUMP


...BECAUSE IF I DID, MY MEMORIES WOULD VANISH.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IT'S DANGEROUS HERE -- YOU'D BETTER GO STRAIGHT HOME.
I... I WILL!
HURRY !!

I AM
ASSASSIN.

THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 10

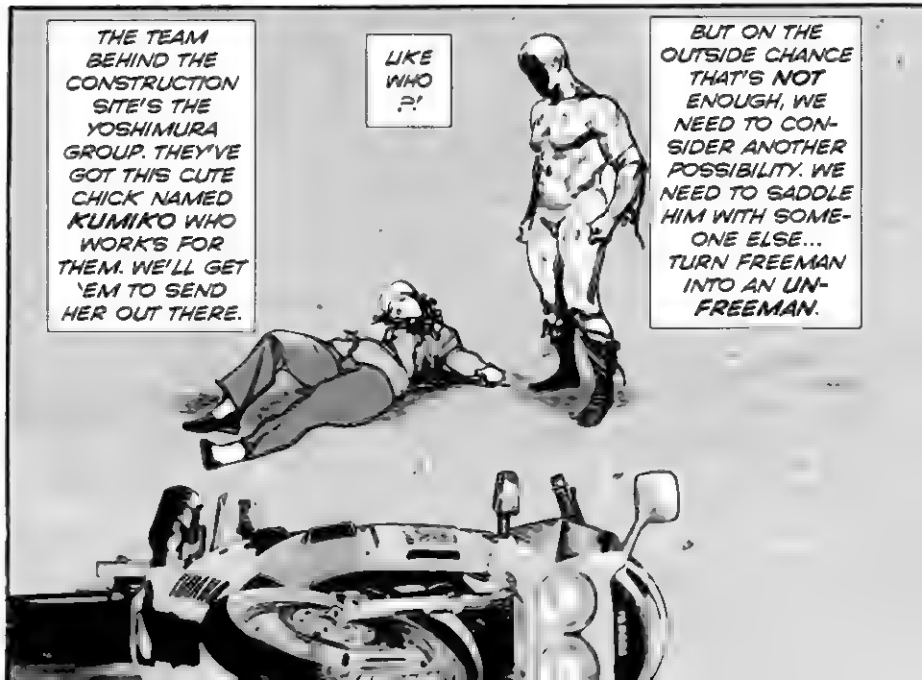
第13話　自由なる旅へ

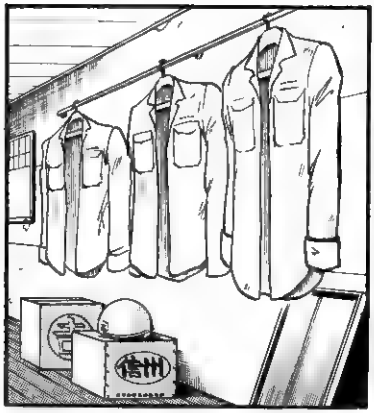
無明流射(10)

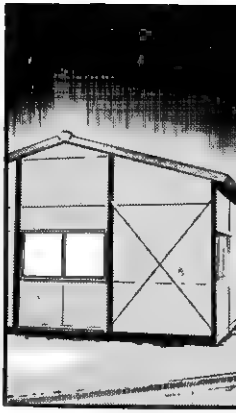
SO WHAT? ONCE HE LEAVES THE SCHOOL-YARD AND WALK'S INTO TOWN, HE'S OURS! THERE ARE EIGHT MEN IN PLACE-- IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN HALF TO NAB HIM!
THIS FREEMAN IS FUCKING INCREDIBLE ...
HE'S KILLED THE OLD WOMAN!

GOOD IT'LL BE PERFECT ...

FOR SURE. HELL, THERE AIN'T A WOMAN ALIVE WHO DOESN'T GET ALL TINGLY FACE-TO-FACE WITH THAT GUY. WHEN SHE SHOWS UP, FREEMAN WILL BE COMPELLED TO PROTECT HER, AND THAT WILL RESTRICT HIS MOVEMENT!
WILL SHE GO,?

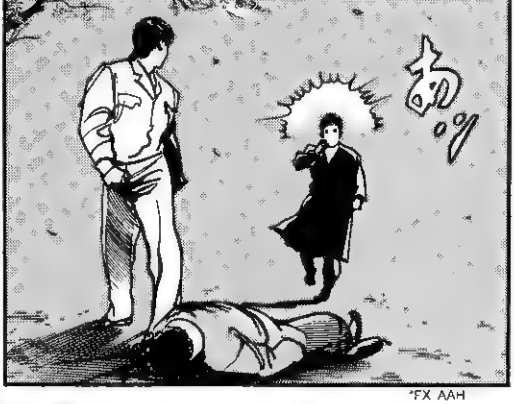

THE TEAM BEHIND THE CONSTRUCTION SITE'S THE YOSHIMURA GROUP. THEY'VE GOT THIS CUTE CHICK NAMED KUMIKO WHO WORK'S FOR THEM. WE'LL GET 'EM TO SEND HER OUT THERE.
LIKE WHO ?!
BUT ON THE OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, WE NEED TO CONSIDER ANOTHER POSSIBILITY. WE NEED TO SADDLE HIM WITH SOMEONE ELSE... TURN FREEMAN INTO AN UN-FREEMAN.





SHE MUST HAVE A WHOLE CREW OF PEOPLE AFTER ME... I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CARELESS.

TH-THAT WOM-AN ...!!
RYUTA ... WH-WHAT HAP-PENED ?!


*FX AAH

*FX HMPH

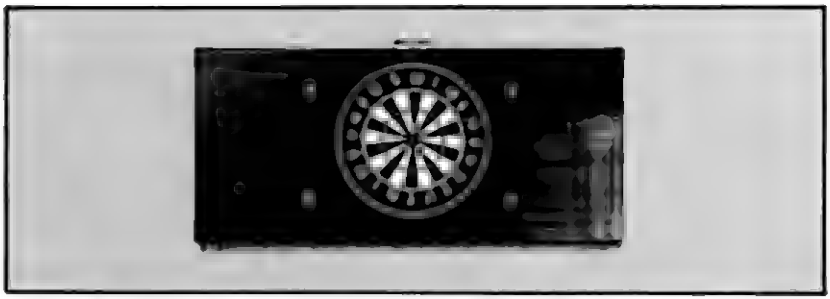
MISS KUMIKO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

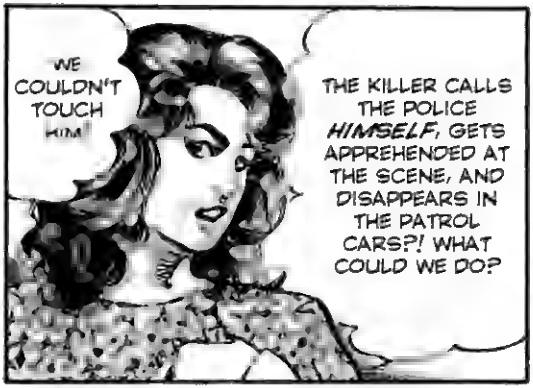
I GOT A PHONE CALL TELLING ME YOU WERE INJURED ON THE SITE!

Y-YES!

HURRY !!
DIAL 110-- CALL THE POLICE FOR ME! TELL THEM THERE'S BEEN A MURDER HERE!

...IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS, SOMETHING THAT LOOKS WORTHLESS ...
PLUS, I'VE BEEN WONDERING... WHERE HAVE YOU STASHED YOUR SECRET BOX?
THINGS AREN'T GOING TO GO THE WAY YOU PLANNED!
FEMALE ASSASSINS IN PARTICULAR TEND TO NOT TRUST ANYONE ELSE, SO THEY KEEP THEIR ENTIRE FORTUNES ON THEIR PERSON...
A SPARE KEY?!
*FX SHRRIP




WE COULDN'T TOUCH HIM!
THE KILLER CALLS THE POLICE *HIMSELF*, GETS APPREHENDED AT THE SCENE, AND DISAPPEARS IN THE PATROL CARS?! WHAT COULD WE DO?

IT SURPRISED THE HELL OUTTA *ME!* I'VE BEEN IN THE PRO GAME A LONG TIME, BUT I AIN'T NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

HE'S FUCKING INCREDIBLE! NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY "UN-IMAGINABLE."
WE WEREN'T READY FOR ANYTHING LIKE *THIS*, AND NOW OUR OLD LADY'S DEAD!
"HONG KONG'LL DEMAND THAT METRO POLICE TURN HIM OVER TO THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXTRADITION TREATY."
TV'S GOING CRAZY, TOO. HE *ADMITTED* THAT HE WAS LONG TAI YANG, BOSS OF THE 108 DRAGONS, AND SAID THAT HE WAS ATTACKED BY JAPANESE ASSASSINS AND ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE! HE JUST TOLD THE FUCKING *TRUTH!*
YOU SAW THE PAPERS THIS MORNING, RIGHT?
"...'CUZ THE COPS IN HONG KONG CAN'T LAY A FINGER ON THE BOSS OF THE 108 DRAGONS!"
"IN THE END, THEY'LL JUST SEND HIM BACK TO HONG KONG, AND HE'LL BE A FREE MAN.."
"AND THE JAPANESE POLICE WON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY, WILL THEY?"
SANYO

HE REALLY IS A "FREE MAN"! WITH A SET-UP LIKE THIS, NO COPS IN THE WORLD CAN TOUCH HIM!
AND THEN HE'LL COME BACK TO JAPAN .. TO KILL YOU IN RETALIA-TION.

*FX CLAK CLAK CLAK
*FX HRR HRR
WE TOTALLY UNDERES-TIMATED HIM.
AND WE'LL BE KEEPING THE DEPOSIT TO PAY FOR THE OLD LADY'S FUNERAL.
IT'D PROBABLY BE THE BEST THING FOR YOU LOT TO DO, TOO.
WELL, WE'RE GONNA DISAP-PEAR FOR A WHILE.

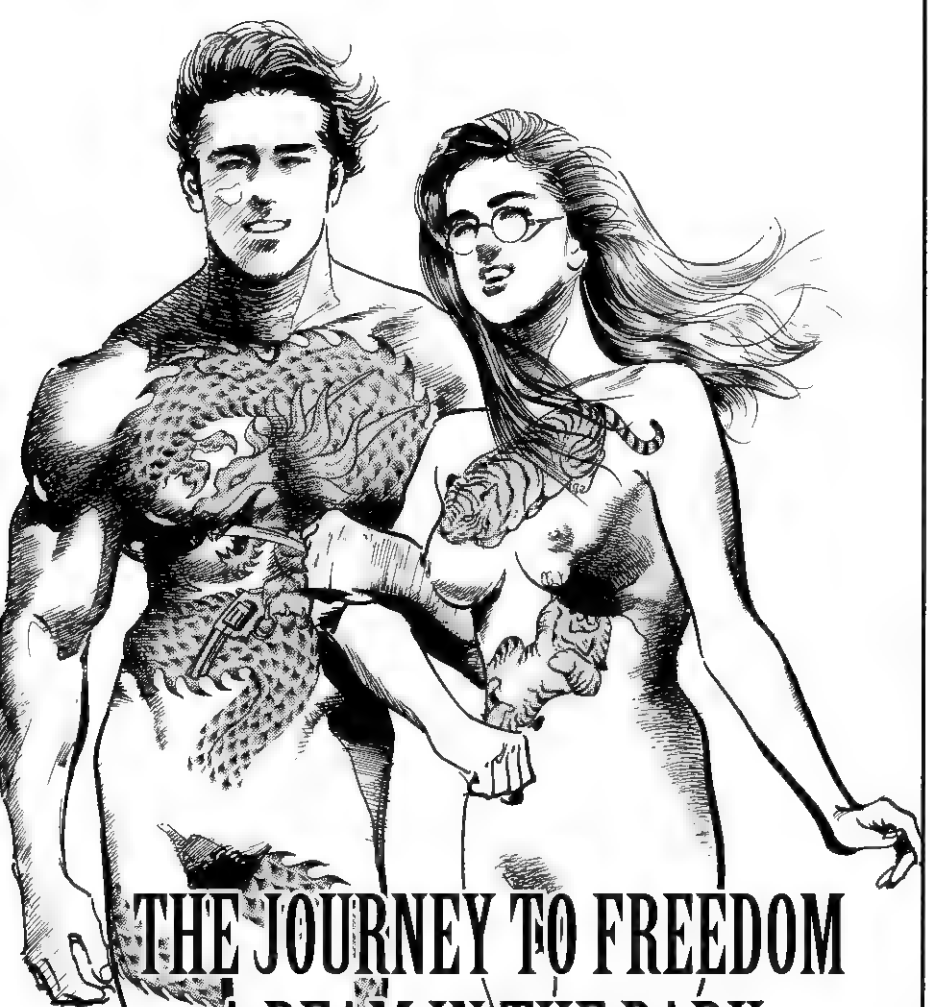
WH-WHY DID YOU PRETEND TO BE A CONSTRUCTION WORKER AND COME TO WORK FOR US AT OUR SITE?
I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN APOLOGY.
I CAUSED YOU SOME TROUBLE.
YES. I WANTED TO BURN THEM INTO MY HEART ONE MORE TIME, FOREVER...
...BUT INSTEAD, THEY ALL JUST VANISHED.
SO, IT WAS... THE MEMO-RIES?
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER COME TO JAPAN AGAIN. BUT I GREW UP HERE, AND I WENT TO THAT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH? AS A MEMENTO?
I GUESS MEMORIES *AREN'T* SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST GO BACK TO.

WHAT AN AGE WE LIVE IN!
HAHAH AHA HAHAH AHAHA!
*FX WHU-?!
*text YOURS TRULY, LONG
*FX SSKK SSKK
我是竜
スルスル

*text YOURS TRULY, LONG TAI YANG

CATHAY PACIFIC

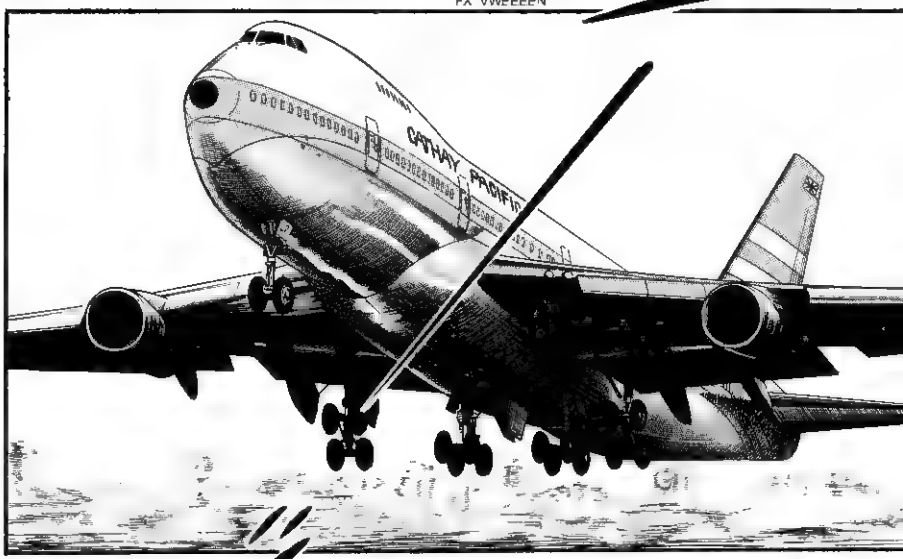


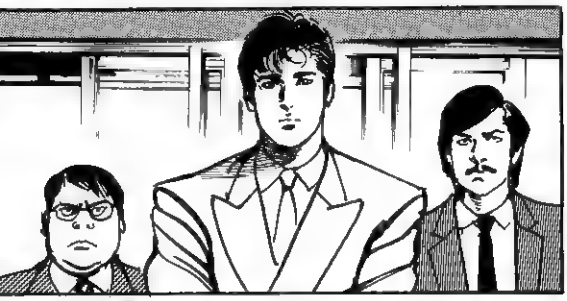
THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 11

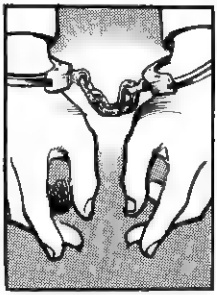
第13話　自由なる旅へ
無明流射(11)

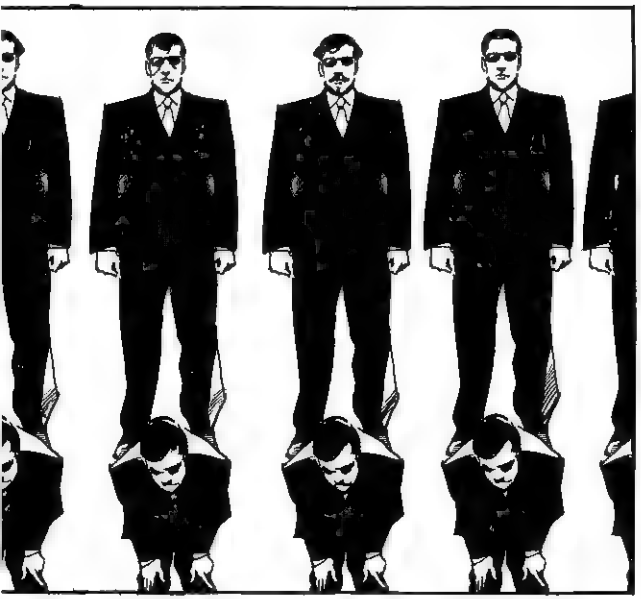
*FX WEEEEN



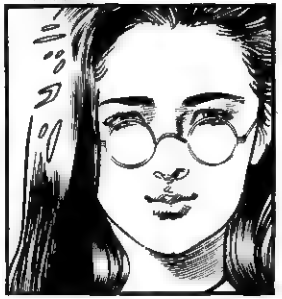


*FX SMILE

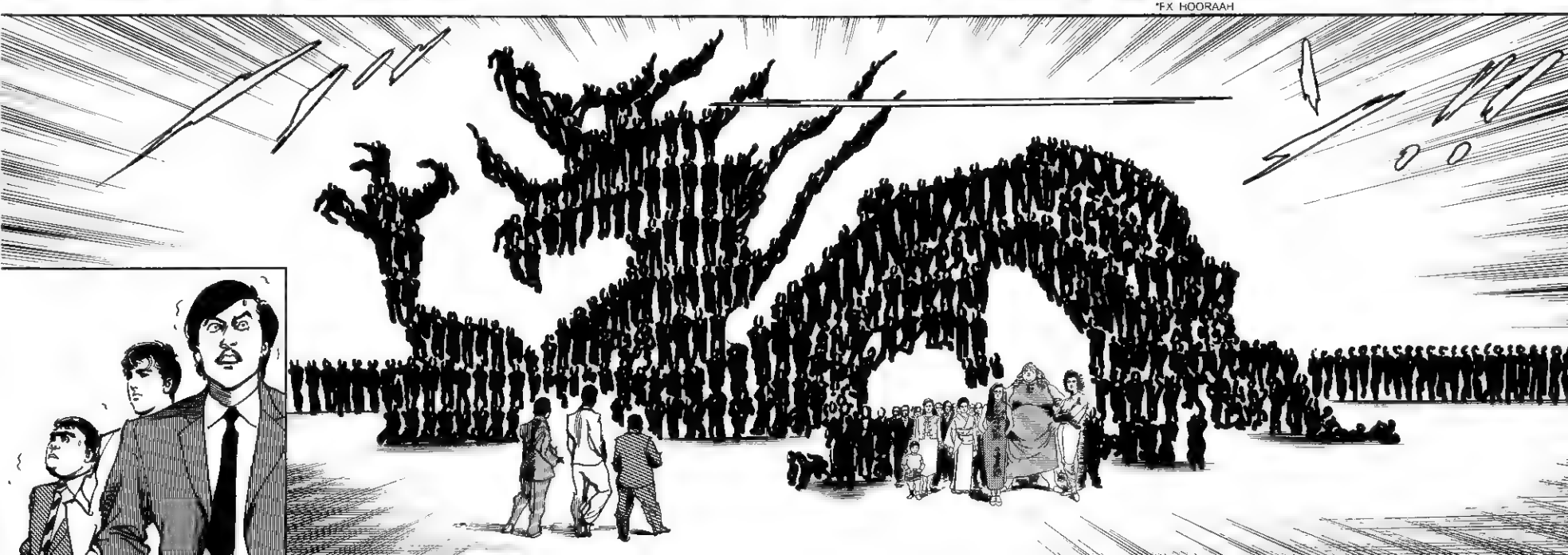


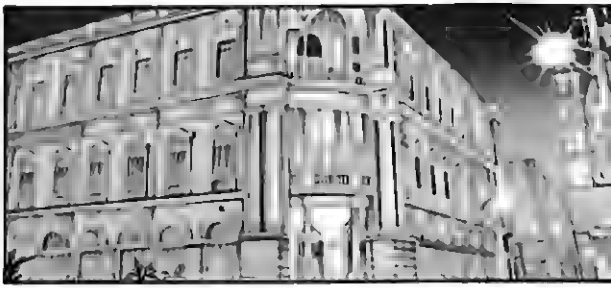


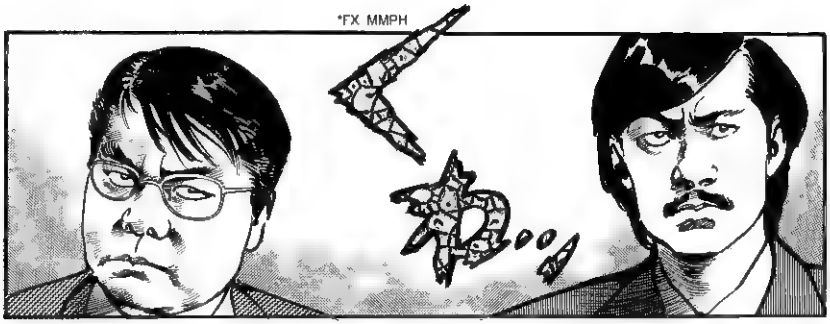
BIG
BROTH-
ERRR!!


*FX SMILE

*FX RRAAAHH

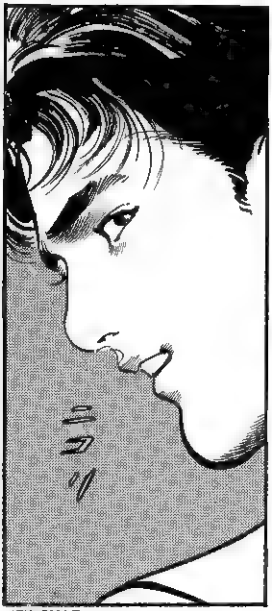

*FX HOORAAH



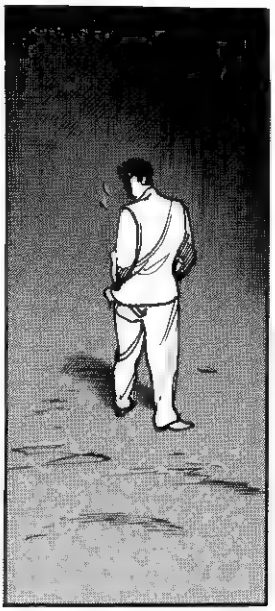


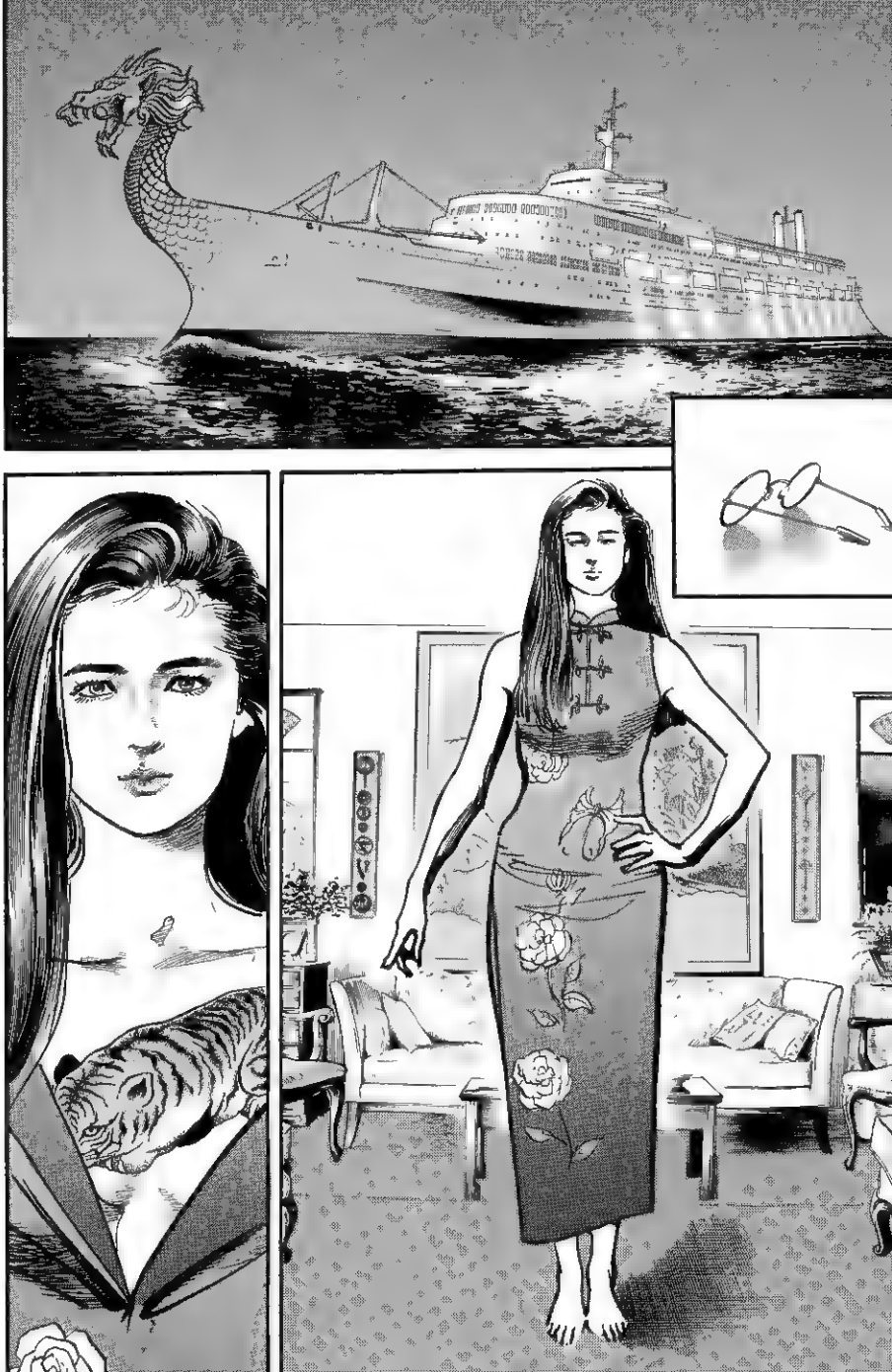
*FX SHFF

*FX AAH



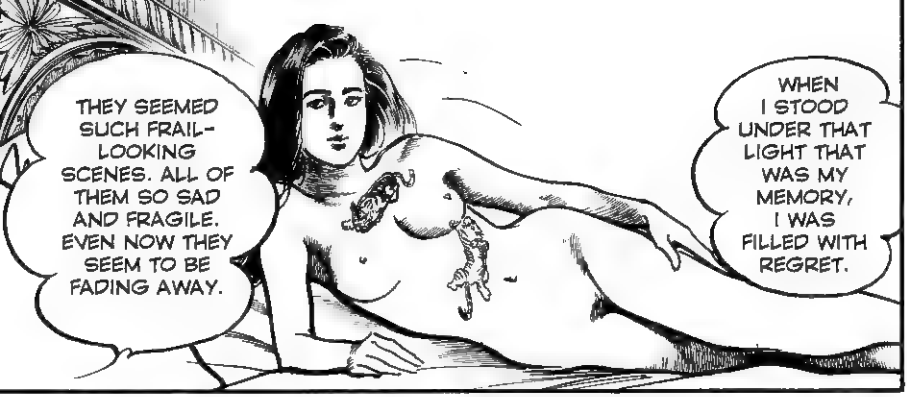
*FX SMILE

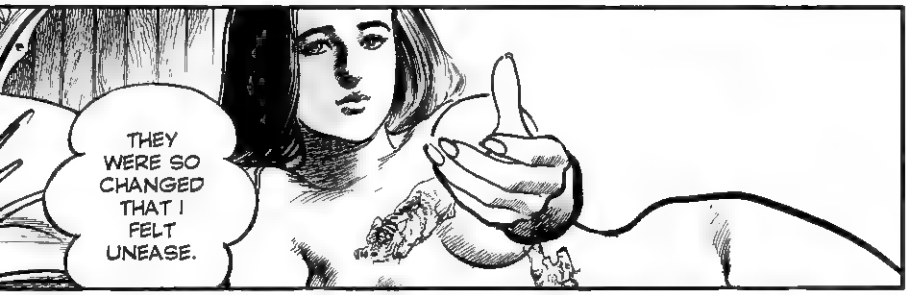


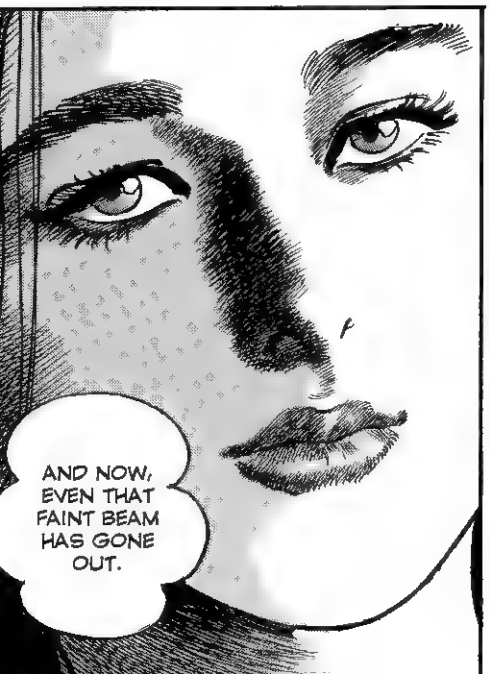


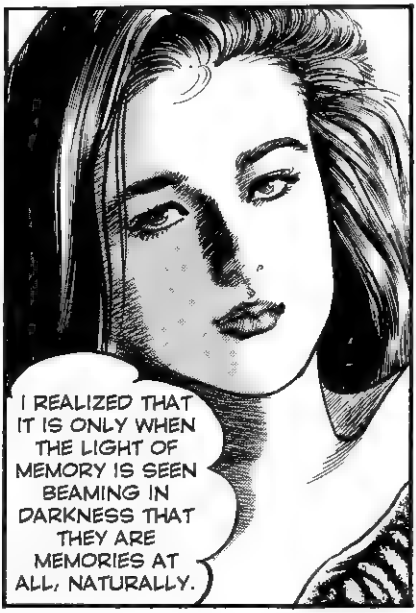
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "A JOURNEY TO LIGHT THE DARK-NESS"?!
IMAGINE A SINGLE BEAM OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS. WHEN YOU REMEMBER THE PAST, SUCH A LIGHT COMES SHINING FAINTLY INTO YOUR HEART ...
ONE YEARNS AFTER THIS LIGHT AND CRAVES A STRONGER LIGHT UNDER WHICH ONE MAY BE REUNITED WITH EVEN SHARPER MEMORIES.
IT WAS KIND OF AN INSTINCTUAL LONGING.

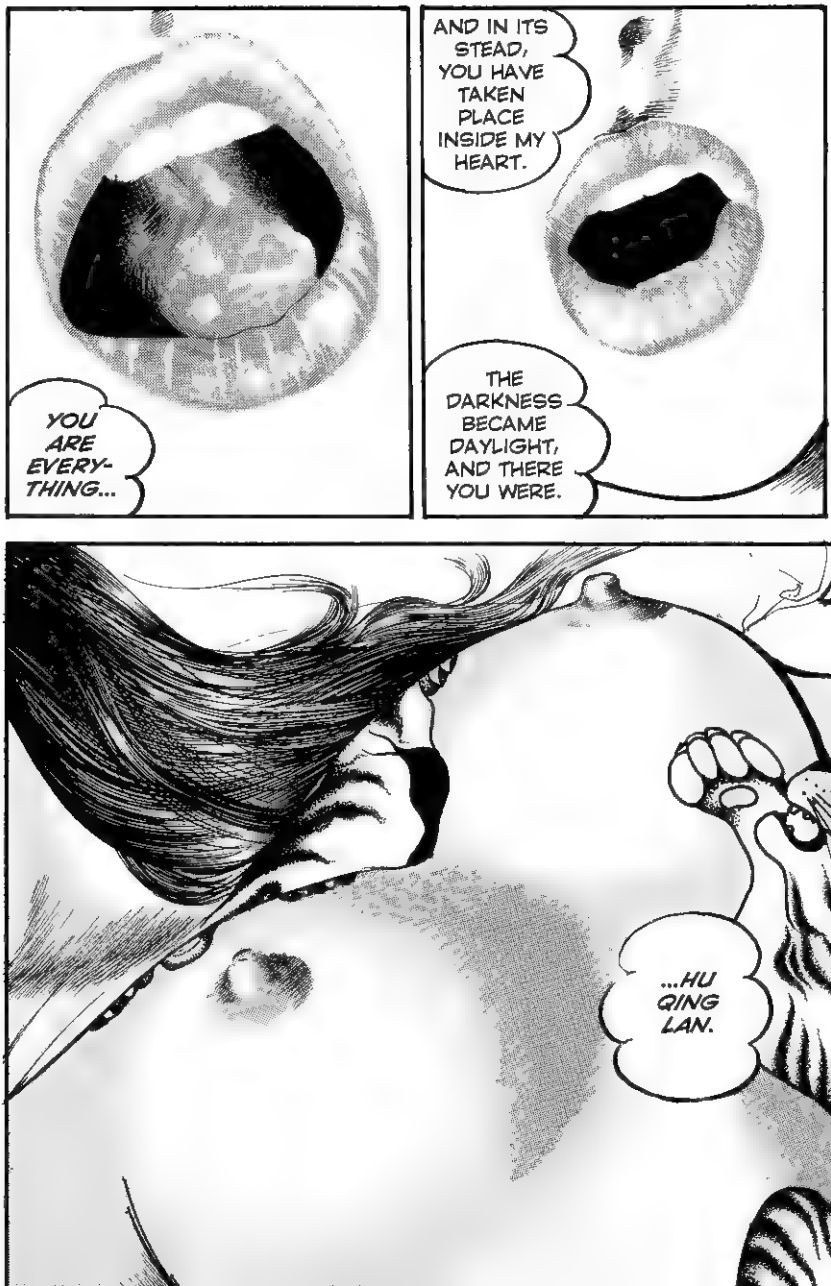
YOU ARE MY LIGHT.
I THOUGHT I NEEDED TO QUENCH SUCH DESIRES IN MY HEART SO THAT I COULD COME BACK HERE AND RESOLVE NEVER TO SET FOOT IN THAT PLACE EVER AGAIN.


THEY SEEMED SUCH FRAIL-LOOKING SCENES. ALL OF THEM SO SAD AND FRAGILE. EVEN NOW THEY SEEM TO BE FADING AWAY.
WHEN I STOOD UNDER THAT LIGHT THAT WAS MY MEMORY, I WAS FILLED WITH REGRET.


THEY WERE SO CHANGED THAT I FELT UNEASE.


AND NOW, EVEN THAT FAINT BEAM HAS GONE OUT.


I REALIZED THAT IT IS ONLY WHEN THE LIGHT OF MEMORY IS SEEN BEAMING IN DARKNESS THAT THEY ARE MEMORIES AT ALL, NATURALLY.

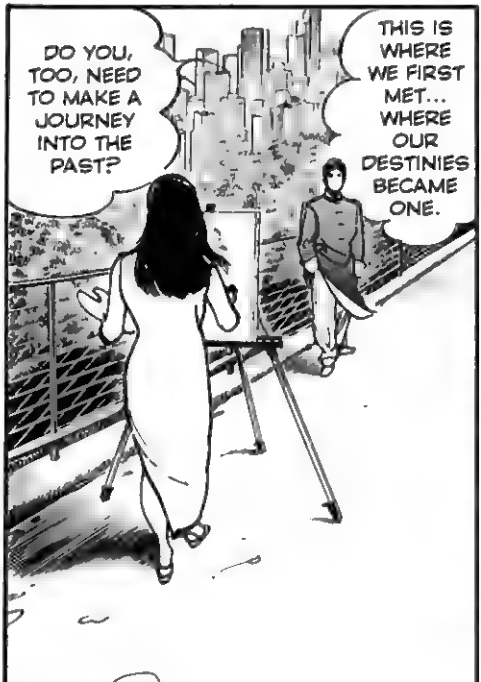

YOU ARE EVERY-THING...
AND IN ITS STEAD, YOU HAVE TAKEN PLACE INSIDE MY HEART.
THE DARKNESS BECAME DAYLIGHT, AND THERE YOU WERE.
...HU QING LAN.

AHH!

AAH!
AAH!
AHH!
MY
LOVE!

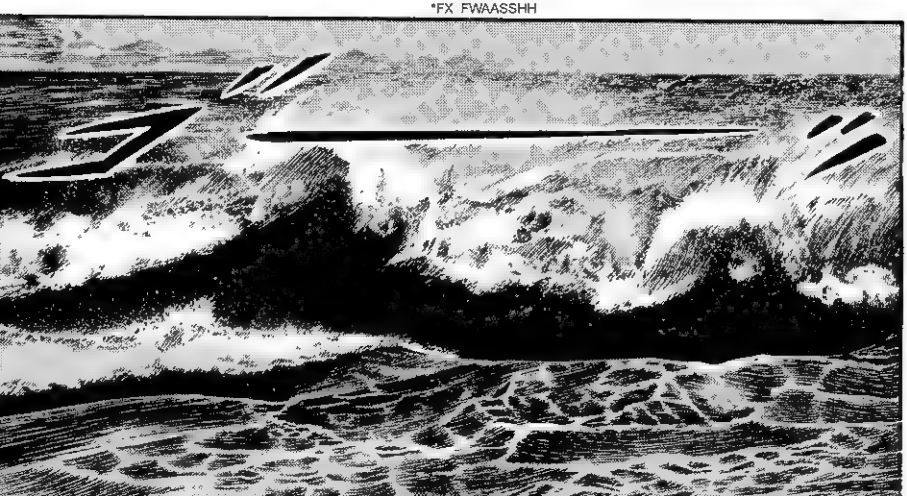
AAHHH!!

OHHH!
AHHH!

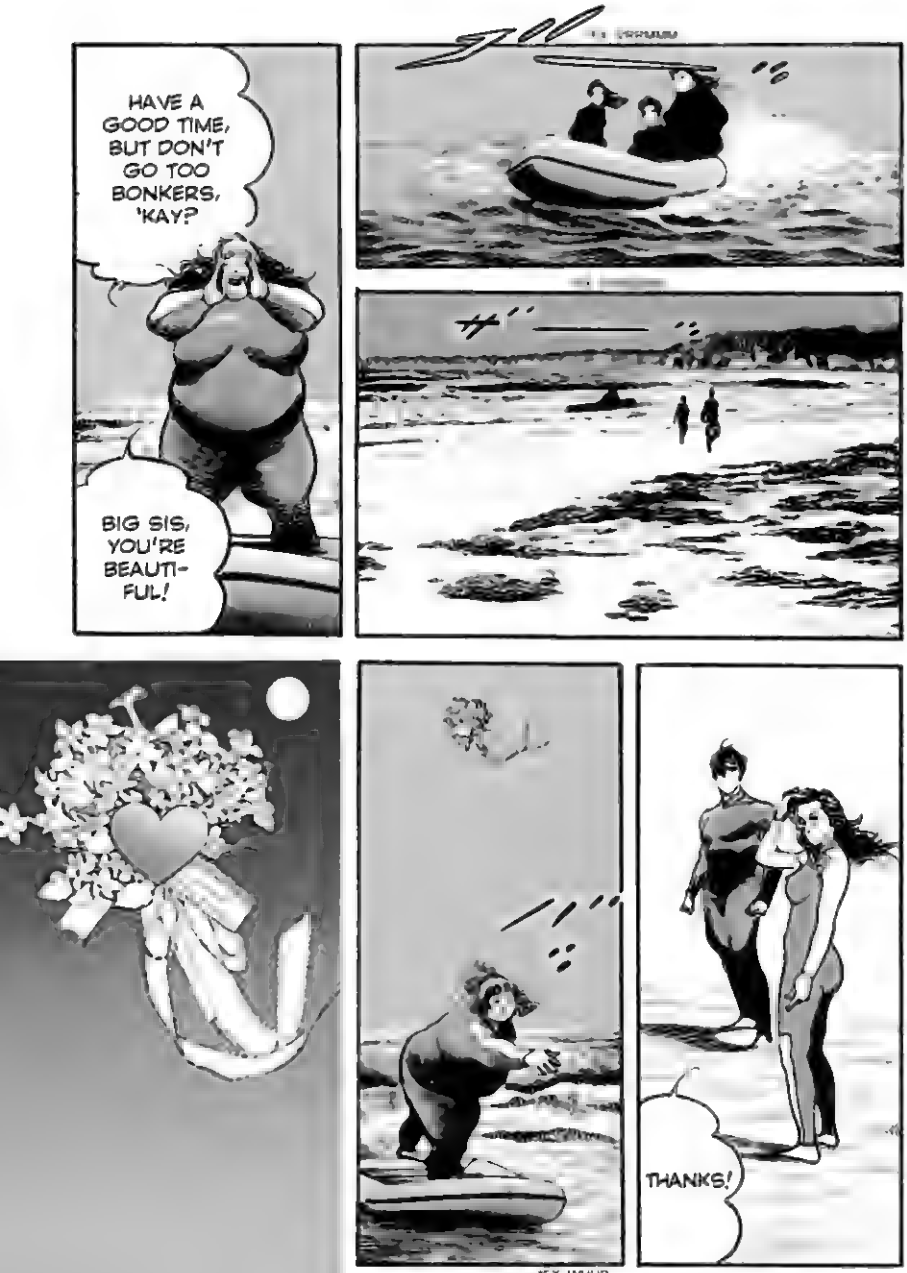

DO YOU, TOO, NEED TO MAKE A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST?
THIS IS WHERE WE FIRST MET... WHERE OUR DESTINIES BECAME ONE.

HAHA-HAHAHA HAHA-HAHAHA!
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
WELL, IF IT'S A HONEY-MOON.
I WAS ALL ALONE. I'D LOST EVERYTHING BEFORE I MET YOU.
THERE WILL BE NO BEAM OF LIGHT INTO MY HEART FROM THE PAST.

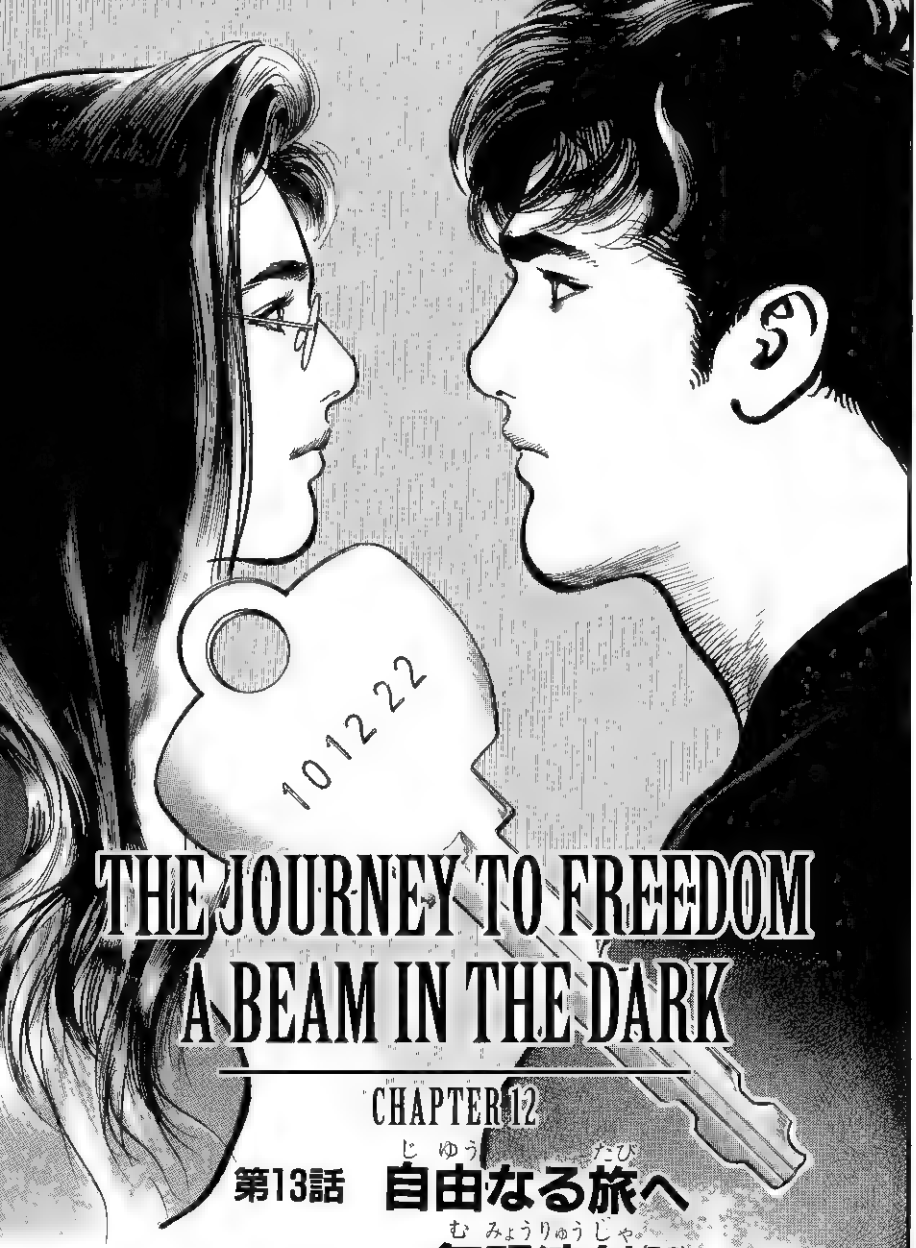
*FX FWAASSHH



*FX HAHA HA HAHA
SO THIS IS OUR HONEYMOON, HUH? HAHA-HAHAHAHA!


HAVE A GOOD TIME, BUT DON'T GO TOO BONKERS, 'KAY?
BIG SIS, YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL!
*FX WHUP
THANKS!

*FX SMILE
I'M SO HAPPY
...



THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM
A BEAM IN THE DARK

CHAPTER 12

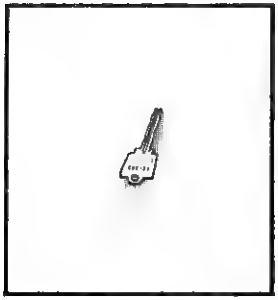
第13話　自由なる旅へ

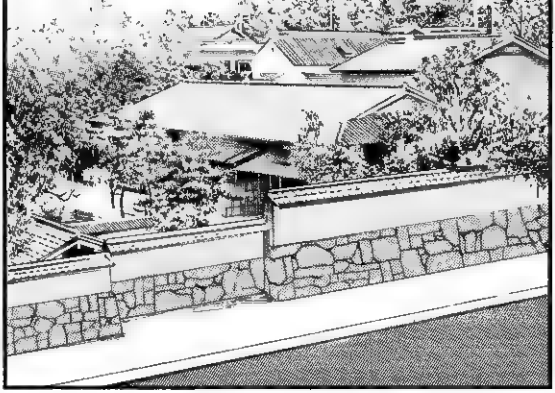
無明流射(12)

THE MIDDLE-AGED LADY ASSASSIN WHO ATTACKED ME HAD IT HIDDEN ON HER.
WHAT'S THAT KEY?
THEY SAY WOMEN ALWAYS CARRY SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO THEM ON THEIR PERSON. WHEN I SEARCHED HER, THIS IS WHAT I FOUND.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE OTHER THING.
THE JAPANESE POLICE WILL PROBABLY NEVER FIGURE OUT WHO SHE REALLY WAS.

...IT'S BAD LUCK.
PLUS...
IT'S CLEARLY A SPARE. BUT IT'S NOT NORMAL TO CARRY AROUND A *SPARE* KEY JUST IN CASE YOU LOST THE ORIGINAL.
IF IT WERE THE ORIGINAL KEY, IT WOULDN'T BE SO ODD.
...AND THEY COULD FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS FOR.
SHE WAS AN ASSASSIN. WHY WOULD SHE CARRY HER SPARE KEY WHEN SHE WAS FACING OFF AGAINST HER TARGET? IF SHE WERE KILLED, IT WOULD BE STOLEN...
AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THESE SPARES THERE MAY BE.

...SO I MADE FIVE MORE SPARES OF THIS SPARE KEY AND SENT THEM TO THE FIVE BOSSES WHO WERE AFTER ME.
I SENT EACH ONE THREE DAYS APART. THE FIRST KEY I SENT WILL REACH THE FIRST BOSS TODAY.
I CAN SEE THE SHADOW OF A SERPENT IN THIS KEY...
...THE SHADOW OF THE SERPENT THAT WAS IN HER HEART...

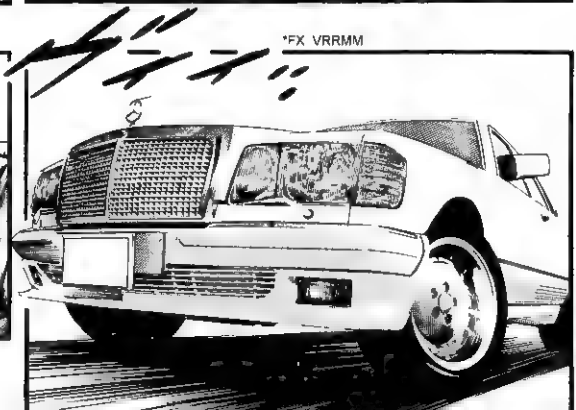


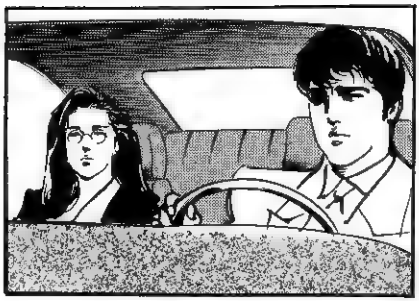


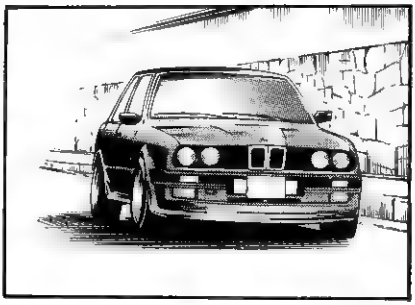
*sign: NIN

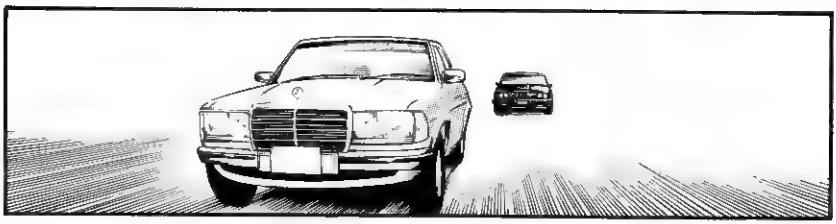
*FX: GRIN

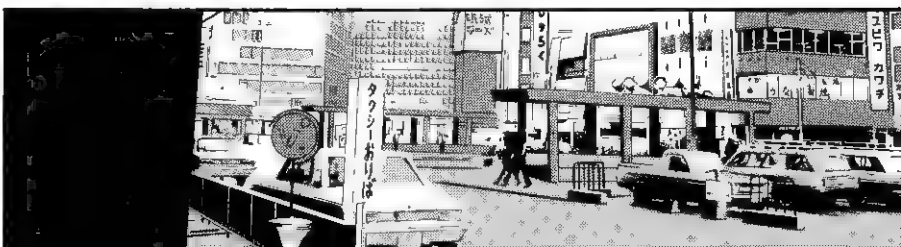
*FX: VRRMM

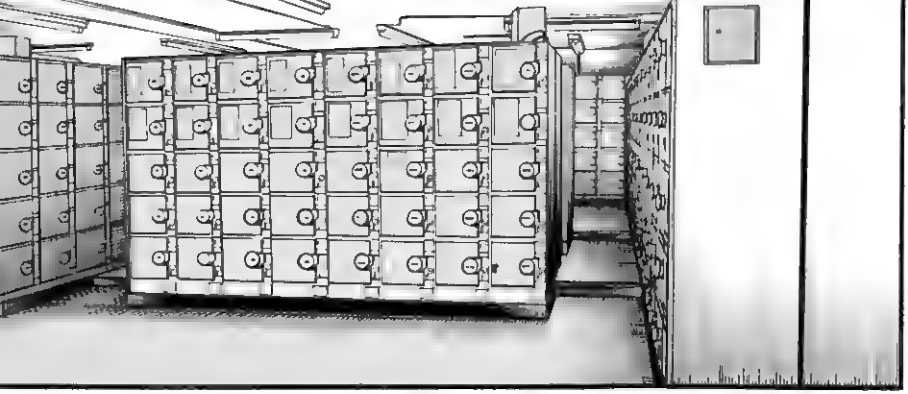






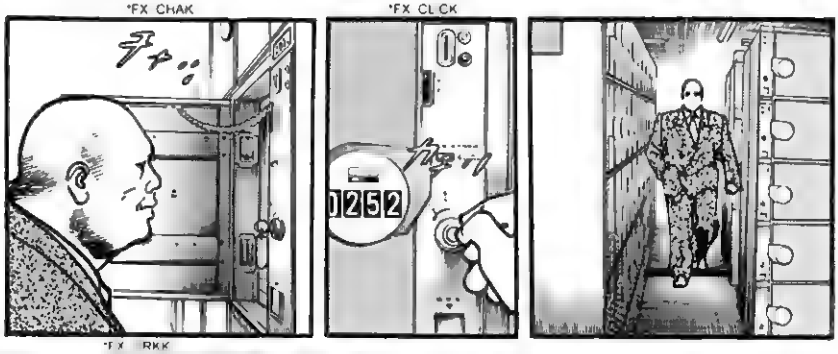



タクシーおりば
ユビワ カワヂ



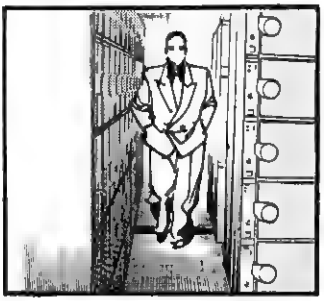
*FX CHAK

*FX CLICK



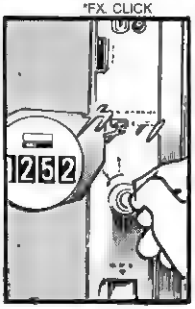
*FX RKK

*FX SHSSK



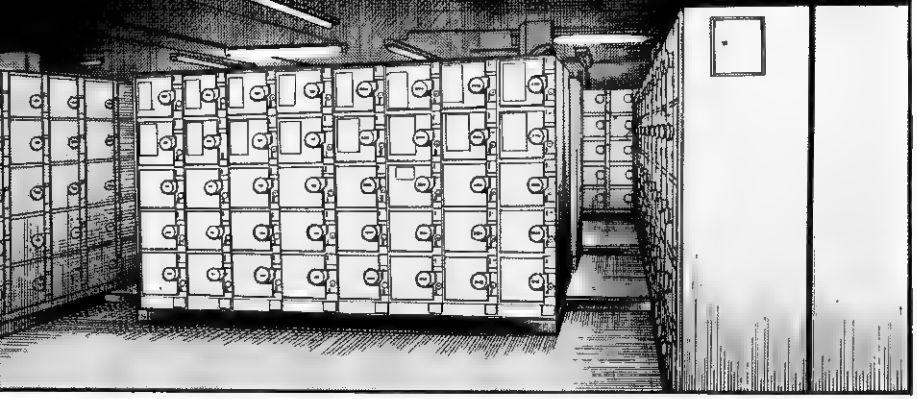
*FX SHSSSS

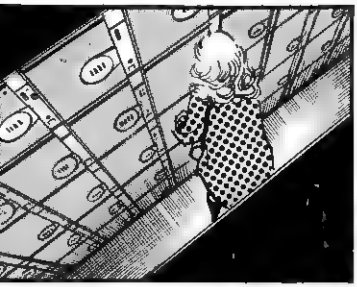
*FX CLICK



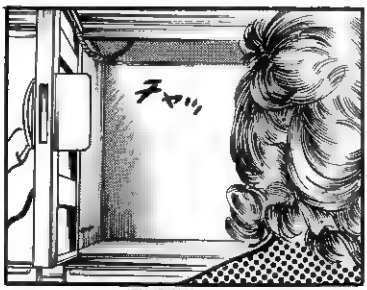
*FX KSSK
*FX GUHH

*sign LOCKERS WITHOUT KEY ARE IN USE





*FX TOK TOK TOK



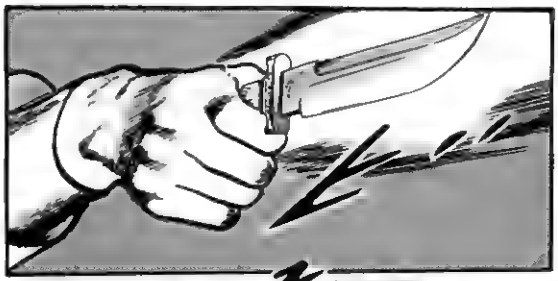
*FX CHAK

*FX CLICK

*FX HUH?!

*FX SHFF

AND THEN THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE THOSE SPARE KEYS OFF OF YOU ALL DIE.
YOU RIG THE INSIDE OF THE LOCKERS WITH CYANIDE GAS, AND THEY BREATHE IT IN.
IT MUST BE SET UP SO WHEN THEY OPEN THE LOCKER, THEY GET A BURST IN THE FACE.
THE THIN VINYL BAG JUST MELTS AWAY, AND THE VOLUME OF THE GAS IS SO SMALL THAT IT'S NEUTRALIZED IN THE AIR.



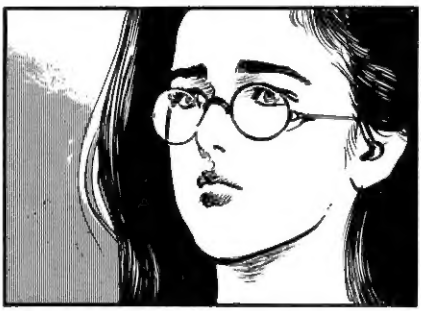
*F.X. WHOOSH

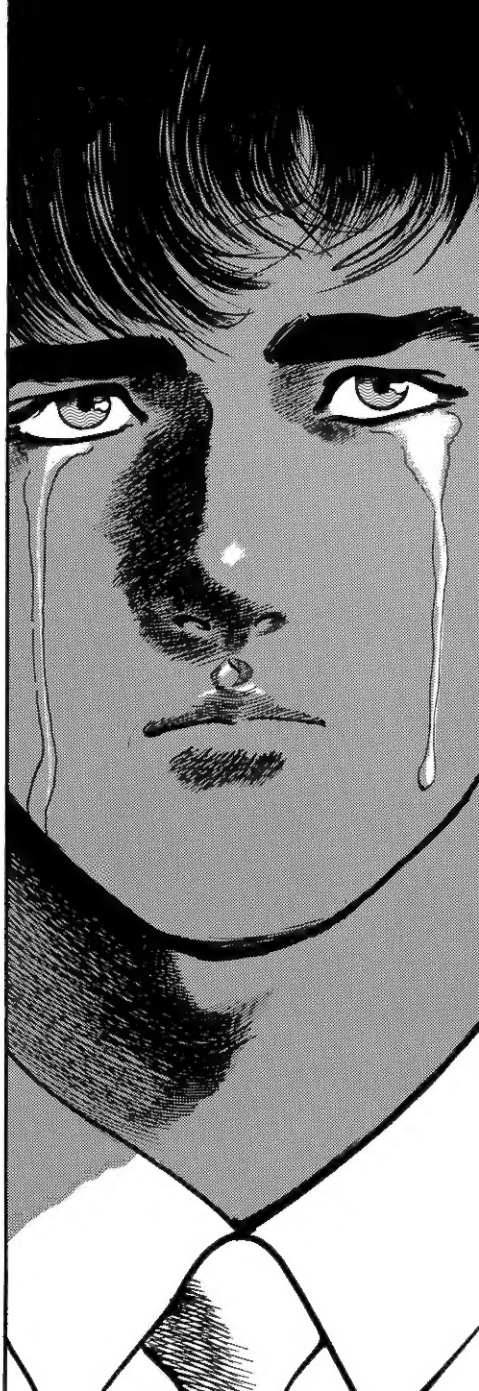
THEN YOU SET IT ALL UP AGAIN FOR THE NEXT VICTIM.

H... HE GOT ME.. IT WAS HIM...
H-HELP ME...!

I-IT WAS FREEMAN!
*FX WHA..?!
I SEE. THERE ARE HANDLERS FOR THE LOCKERS, TOO.
Y-YOU IDIOT!! YOU'VE DONE JUST WHAT HE WANTED BY COMING HERE!!
*sign EXIT *FX SHFF
非常口

*CHUNT
*CHUNT
CHUNT



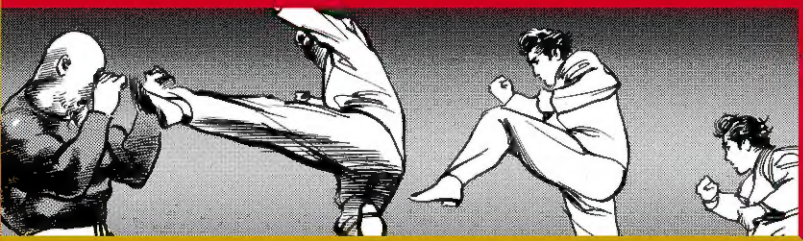


小池一夫・作
池上遼一・画

CRYING FREEMAN

Kazuo Koike / Ryoichi Ikegami

クライング フリーマン



GRAPHIC NOVEL
MANGA / CRIME

Once a humble artist, the assassin known as Crying Freeman has risen to become head of the 108 Dragons, the most powerful criminal organization on earth. But there is no end to the number of rival groups gunning for Dragons' turf—and for Freeman's head. Faced with an army of kidnappers and assassins, how long can Freeman's luck hold? Will the Dragons be torn apart by warring rivals or poisoned from within? Will Freeman's compassionate heart be the Dragons' redemption or its downfall?

Written by the legendary Kazuo Koike, creator of *Lone Wolf and Cub*, and illustrated by the incomparable Ryoichi Ikegami, *Crying Freeman* is adult manga at its most challenging: dark, violent, morally complex, erotically charged, and regarded worldwide as a masterpiece of adult graphic fiction. Dark Horse Manga is proud to present *Crying Freeman*, one of the jewels in the crown of manga classics, with an entirely new and faithful translation.

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